RAWR
Why won't you release the next chapter?!
W...
Can I help you?

What can I do to help?
I-b-but! I don't know how to edit or translate
Fan Girl
/

It's not like YOU helped out any.
We don't have enough translators or editors.
Stop yelling already.
!!!
...

Visit our website for details.
Find us some translators and editors and you'll have your next chapter.
http://www.aerandria.net

Stop... stalking... us...! XP

Aerandria

http://aerandria.net | irc://irchighway.net/#aerandria

Akaku Saku Koe
Volume 03
Chapter 009

SOURCE: MICHEX
TRANSLATOR: AKIKO
PROOFREADER: BEA & ASAHNA
EDITOR: CLAYMAVEN
QC: ADRIFT

"When you're in love, even happiness hurts." That should be emblazoned somewhere. <3

- Adrift

Hana to Yume COMICS

Akaku Saku Koe

Yuki Midorikawa 3

Hana to Yume COMICS

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Akaku Saku Koe (3)

Yuki Midorikawa

白泉社

花とゆめCOMICS

▶収録作品◀

不思議な声で警察に協力を続ける辛島。ある日、坂本が開いた廃ビルの妙なうわさの調査に2人は乗り出す。国府を交えた3人がそこで見たうわさの真相とは？　そして辛島と国府に恋の花は咲くのか？「あかく咲く声」最終巻!!

■LaLa掲載■

白泉社

●綾川ゆきの本
――花とゆめコミックス――
あかく咲く声　全3巻
アッイヒビ
緋色の檜子①

作品かいせつ

不思議な声を生かし、警察に協力を続ける辛島。そんな彼を見守る友人・坂本が聞いた街はずれの廃ビルの妙なうわさ。調査に乗り出した二人について行くことになった国府と彼らがそこで見たうわさの真相とは一体？　そして辛島と国府、二人に恋の花は咲きほこるのか――？

Hana to Yume COMICS

Akaku Saku Koe

Volume 3

Yuki Midorikawa

This is a work of fiction.
Any similarites with actual
events or people are
purely coincidental.

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Akaku Saku Koe

Hypnotic and hallucinatory,

even without his meaning it to be so,

Karashima-kun's voice is stunning

and

very beautiful.

KOKUBU, DO YOU WANT TICKETS FOR A FLOWER EXHIBITION?

THANKS.

Come to think of it,

SOMEONE GAVE THESE TO ME, BUT I HAVE PLANS...

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY, BUT WE ONLY HAVE CLASSES IN THE MORNING, SO YOU SHOULD GO IF YOU'D LIKE.

THERE ARE TWO, SO GET KAWARA OR KUWAMIZU TO GO WITH YOU.

I've decided.

.....

Karashima-kun and I have never gone out together for fun.

I'LL INVITE KARASHIMA-KUN!!!

THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP

On second thought, give them back to me!

No! They're mine already!

BONK

JOLT

ACK!

...A GHOST STORY?

TAT TAT

THERE'S A RUMOR GOING AROUND RECENTLY.

I JUST HEARD A GHOST STORY, SO I WAS STARTLED.

Sorry

NO, I'M SORRY, TOO. I DIDN'T MEAN TO YELL LIKE THAT...

WAH!

I'M SORRY.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN GHOSTS, AIDOMI?

WHO KNOWS?

BUT

I COULD NEVER MEET ONE.

Aidomi is often lonely.

Huuuu

KUSH!

Right, her mother has passed away.

FUFU.

IF YOU'RE SORRY, GIVE ME A HUG.

SORRY...

HAVE YOU SEEN KARASHIMA-KUN?

Geology

RATTLE

SAKA-MOTO-KUN.

he also depended on me more.

Come to think of it, Karashima-kun lost his mother, too...

I wish

SIX STUDENTS, INCLUDING HIM, BROKE THE WINDOWS AT THE P.E. WAREHOUSE WHILE PLAYING KICK-THE-CAN DURING BREAK TIME.

EH?

HE'S DOING SEIZA* IN FRONT OF THE FACULTY ROOM.

HE WASN'T IN THE CLASS-ROOM.. WAS HE CALLED IN?

*(T/N: FORMAL, STRAIGHT UP SITTING WHICH IS SOMETIMES USED AS PUNISHMENT.)

SNAP

WELL, LISTENING TO HIS VOICE, ANYONE CAN GET HIGH.

.....

THEY'RE TOO HYPER.

BUDDIES SINCE GRADE SCHOOL, THEY SOMETIMES PLAY TAKAONI* UNTIL SOMEONE PASSES OUT OR PUKES.

*(T/N: A KIND OF TAG GAME WHICH INVOLVES CLIMBING THINGS.)

EH?

I DIDN'T THINK CLASSES ENDED SO SOON.

YEAH.

ARE YOU HAVING LUNCH NOW?

WHAT'S YOUR BUSINESS WITH KARASHIMA, KOKUBU?

HMM.

A SECRET.

I'd like to invite him, but maybe this is too boring for Karashima-kun.

I'M THINKING ABOUT PLAYING A DARE GAME.

?

WELL, I'VE GOT SOMETHING ON MY MIND.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING AFTER THIS, SAKAMOTO-KUN?

Thanks for the meal

THE GHOST RUMOR?

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT...

EH? WON'T IT BE DANGEROUS IF YOU GO BY YOURSELF THEN?

BUT IT'D BE TROUBLESOME IF SOME PEOPLE WERE HIDING THERE, PLOTTING BAD THINGS, RIGHT?

THERE'S NO PROBLEM IF IT'S REALLY A GHOST,

YEAH, A LITTLE.

THE ONE ABOUT THE HAUNTED CONDEMNED BUILDING AT THE EDGE OF TOWN.

It's my getting-lovey-dovey-with-Karashima-during-a-dare-game mission, you see.

I'M GOING TO ASK KARASHIMA TO COME ALONG WITH ME.

RIGHT. THAT'S WHY

That won't work.

UHM, SAKAMOTO-KUN...

TICKETS THAT WILL EXPIRE TODAY.

Eh?

Hello. Wow, it's already volume three!

I remember the time when I got shaky knees of joy looking at my comics in a bookstore with the number "one" under the title "Akaku Saku Koe." It is truly like a dream. I'm truly grateful to my readers, editors, and supportive fellow writers.

Illustration Contest! LaLa magazine hosted a contest asking readers to send in illustrations for the characters. There were illustrations that were very detailed, beautifully colored, ones so cute that I wanted to scream, ones that went on for several sheets, and many others. I was so happy that I ended up looking at each and every one of them again and again. Some names I saw for the first time, some names I recognized from fan letters, but I was moved by them all. I'll keep trying hard in drawing manga so that there'll be more of these wonderful encounters!

and they'll definitely leave me behind, saying that it's too dangerous for me.

If he talks Karashima-kun into doing that,

I won't be able to invite Karashima-kun,

Somehow, I've got to invite him first.

Or else, I won't be able to be with him today.

UM, I...

HEY, SAKAMOTO.

WHAT DO YOU WA—

THUMP

KYAH!

I don't look happy because you called me here

JL

HEY, DO YOU MIND COMING WITH ME TO A DARE GAME?

YOU DON'T LOOK TOO HAPPY. ARE YOUR LEGS STILL NUMB?

THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP

No, I'm fine

K-KARA-SHIMA-KUN.

AH,

KOKUBU-SAN.

Sorry did I scare you?

WE CAN DO THIS TODAY BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE ANY CLASSES IN THE AFTER-NOON.

IF IT GETS DARK THAT THING MIGHT ACTUALLY COME OUT.

Today, I

NO! NOT TODAY!

CARRY OUT YOUR MISSION TOMOR-ROW.

N—

EH?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON..

HA HA HA HA HA

Don't pretend you're scared. You don't even believe in it!

KAWA-
GUCHI.

...KAWA-
GUCHI.

...AH,
SER-
GEANT.

HOW
unsightly

DON'T
SLEEP
HERE.

Oh, nice
weather

Pardon
me.

ARE YOU
TIRED?

WE
HAVEN'T
CALLED IN
THE FOX
RECENTLY,
AFTER ALL.

IS IT TOO
MUCH FOR
YOU GUYS
ALONE?

NO. I'VE
HAD A HABIT
OF DOZING OFF
SINCE I WAS A
UNIVERSITY
STUDENT.

ALSO, TO
START WITH,
OUR WORK
SHOULD BE
DONE WITHOUT
HIS HELP.

THAT'S
RIGHT.

AT LEAST,

I WISH FOR HIM TO HAVE A STRONG EMOTIONAL SUPPORT.

.....

HE'S AT A SENSITIVE AGE.

INDEED, IT'S NOT A GOOD THING TO EXPOSE HIM TO TOO MUCH EVIL.

.....

Maybe I should invite Karashima-kun for dinner once in a while.

Then you could have let me sleep a bit more

AH, KAWAGUCHI, WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME TODAY?

IS IT ALL RIGHT?

All right! I'm going to stuff myself and sleep today!!!

AH, SERGEANT MIYAHARA. UNIT ZERO HAS BEEN CALLED OUT.

Ah. Is that so?

Should I call in the Fox? This will be solved quickly, then?

No, that's all right.

A BIT SUSPICIOUS, HUH.

ISN'T IT?

ARE YOU COMING?

.....

OK.

A GHOST AT THE CONDEMNED BUILDING...

RUSTLE

THEN,

AREN'T YOU COMING?

EH?

YOU GUYS TAKE CARE.

...CAN I COME WITH YOU...?

.....

...THANK YOU.

When you are in love with someone,

even happiness hurts.

ANYONE WHO ENTERED THE BUILDING SINCE THEN WAS CURSED BY THAT MAN AND WAS INJURED, THE RUMOR SAYS. NOBODY WANTED TO BUY THE PLACE, SO A YEAR PASSED.
THERE WAS AN INCIDENT A FEW YEARS AGO AT THE CONDEMNED BUILDING
FOR A GHOST STORY, IT'S NOT MUCH
A MAN WAS FOUND BLEEDING PROFUSELY ON THE FLOOR.

IT COULD BE THE MAN'S GHOST, THEY SAY.

LATER, PEOPLE SAID THEY HEARD LAUGHING VOICES AND THINGS BEING DRAGGED AROUND.

THEN, TWO WEEKS AGO, SOMEONE PASSING NEARBY NOTICED A MOVING SHADOW THROUGH A WINDOW OF THE CONDEMNED BUILDING.

THAT'S THE *GHOST STORY* RUMOR.

GENERALLY, A *GHOST*...

ISN'T IT? I THOUGHT ABOUT TALKING TO KAWAGUCHI OR MY OLD MAN, BUT IT'S A *GHOST* WE'RE TALKING ABOUT...

SOUNDS FISHY.

Like a big fat lie

AH, BUT IF IT'S YOU,

YOU CAN SHOW A GHOST TO OTHER PEOPLE, CAN'T YOU?

IT'S NOT THAT I SHOW THEM...

THEY'LL SEE THE GHOST ON THE R OWN.

EH?

IS THAT SO?!

YES, IT IS.

ANYWAY, I CAN'T SEE THE IMAGE SEEN BY THE PERSON THAT I HYPNOTIZE.

EVEN IF I CARELESSLY SPOKE WORDS AND PROVOKED AN ILLUSION FOR SOMEONE,

I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO NOTICE.

Right, come to think of it...

Ah, but...

AH, LOOK. THAT'S THE RUMORED CONDEMNED BUILDING.

...IT LOOKS THE PART.

SAKA-MOTO.

HMM?

NOTICE

THIS BUILDING WILL BE DEMOLISHED IN THREE DAYS.

WHAT?!

They were all so beautiful.

with his beautiful words I saw

red flowers,

cherry blossoms,

and a field of grasses.

S-SO THE MATTER IS SOLVED?

PERHAPS.

...THEN, THE SHADOWS THAT WERE SEEN RECENTLY...

...MIGHT HAVE BEEN REAL ESTATE AGENTS

OR CONSTRUCTION WORKERS.

WE..L, WE'RE HERE ALREADY.

WHY DON'T WE TAKE A LOOK AROUND?

DISAPPOINTED

This is too fast...

!

REALLY?!

.....

LET'S GET THIS DONE WITH QUICKLY AND GO TO EAT SOMETHING.

I'LL START FROM THE TOP DOWN. YOU TWO SEARCH FROM THE BOTTOM.

OK.

WATCH OUT FOR YOUR FEET, KOKUBU-SAN.

IT'S STILL A BIT CREEPY, ISN'T IT?

YEAH. THE LAYOUT IS PRETTY COMPLICATED, TOO.

OK.

EH?

KARA-
SHIMA-KUN,
JUST NOW...

TAP TAP

GASP

WHO ARE YOU?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

.....

MY CAT MIGHT HAVE WANDERED IN HERE, SO WE'RE LOOKING FOR IT.

YOU HAVE A STRANGE VOICE.

UM...

WELL... WHAT ARE YOU...

ME?

I'M HERE TO SEE THE GHOST.

.....

Silence

DO YOU KNOW THE *GHOST* STORY FOR THIS BUILDING?

THE ONE WITH THE BLOODY MAN FOUND ON THE FLOOR?

RIGHT.

THAT WAS MY LOVER.

I'VE BEEN HEARING THESE SILLY STORIES ABOUT HIS *GHOST* FOR A WHILE.

BUT THEN I HEARD ABOUT THE DEMOLITION.

SOMEHOW...

PIECES OF MEMORIES ARE UNSETTLING TO ME.

ANNOYING, REALLY.

AH, CAN I HELP YOU FIND YOUR CAT?

EH... YES, BUT IT MAY ALREADY BE OUTSIDE.

SO WE'RE ALL STILL LOOKING, I SEE

TAP TAP

YEAH...

NO CAT OR GHOST IS TO BE FOUND, HUH?

Is someone there?

COME...

GASP

...?

HM?

NO nothing.

AH

Right, having her here with us

makes it hard for him to use his voice...

KOKUBU-SAN.

WILL YOU WAIT HERE FOR ME? THERE'S SOMETHING I'M CONCERNED ABOUT, SO I'LL GO AND TAKE A LOOK.

OK.

TAKE CARE.

YEAH.

Actually, I want to go with him

This is so that I'll be allowed to stay close to him.

but today, I've decided to listen to him obediently

IS HE YOUR BOY-FRIEND?

N-NO...!

Urgh.

I'm still worried, though...

since he didn't ask me to go home earlier.

HMM.

IT'S OK ALREADY.

EH?

AH... Um?

AREN'T YOU GOING TO CHECK IT OUT? IT MIGHT BE THE GHOST...

THIS IS SILLY, AFTER ALL.

CHUCKLE

I LIED ABOUT THAT BEING MY LOVER'S GHOST.

YOU LIKE THAT BOY, DON'T YOU?

FUFU.

YOU'RE SO CUTE.

...?

Chuckle

Chuckle

IF HE'S NOT WITH ME ALL THE TIME,

IF I WERE TO LOSE HIM ONE DAY,

YOU KNOW,

ARE YOU AT A PERIOD WHEN IT'S ENOUGH JUST TO BE CLOSE TO HIM?

HOWEVER, FALLING IN LOVE DRAGS YOU DOWN, YOU KNOW? YOU'LL SOON FIND IT'S NOT ENOUGH.

YOU'LL BECOME UN-IMAGINABLY UGLY.

IT HURTS WHETHER YOU'RE WITH HIM OR NOT.

I WOULD RATHER GET RID OF HIM WITH MY OWN HANDS...

THE MAN FOUND LYING IN THIS BUILDING...

MY OWN HEART

BECAME AN UNCONTROLLABLE MONSTER.

WHY DON'T I TELL YOU WHY HE WAS FOUND LYING IN A BLOODY MESS?

DON'T TOUCH HER.

WAS THAT YOUR CAT?

JUST SOME PIGEONS.

REALLY?

THAT'S TOO BAD.

...I'M SORRY

FOR TEAS'NG YOU.

YOU TWO LOOKED SO CUTE TO-GETHER THAT I GOT A LITTLE JEALOUS.

.....

I SAID I'M SORRY...

I carried my joke too far

PLAYING WITH FIRE-WORKS, ETC.

EXPLOR-ING,

I OFTEN SNUCK INTO THIS BUILDING WITH HIM TO HAVE FUN.

I TOLD YOU THAT HE WAS MY LOVER, RIGHT?

I TOLD YOU THE GHOST WAS MADE UP.

NO, HE'S NOT DEAD.

THEN YOU'RE THE ONE WHO KILLED...

ONE DAY, I CALLED HIM HERE ONE LAST TIME, PUNCHED HIM REALLY HARD, AND BROKE UP WITH HIM.

HE WAS A BAD GUY, AND HE HAD MANY OTHER WOMEN BE-SIDES ME.

AFTER I PUNCHED HIM, HE WAS JUST OUT WITH A NOSEBLEED, FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD.

.....

Ahaha

I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE, BUT HE'S STILL AROUND SOME-WHERE.

I JUST COULDN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE.

"I WANTED TO SEE IT ONE LAST TIME."

...INDEED.

A RUMOR CAN BE SCARY, HUH?

BUT I STILL HAVE SOME MEMO-RIES IN THIS BUILDING.

I HAVE NO FEELINGS LEFT FOR HIM.

NO, WE'RE FINE.

ALL RIGHT, I'LL BE GOING, THEN.

...DO YOU WANT ME TO HELP WITH YOUR CAT?

SORRY FOR SAYING THINGS TO SCARE YOU BEFORE,

BUT

IT'S REALLY BEAUTIFUL.

SORRY FOR CALLING YOUR VOICE STRANGE.

I'M SURE YOU'LL BE OK.

TOGETHER, YOU TWO CAN MAKE IT WORK.

...LOOKS LIKE WE WERE WORRIED OVER NOTHING, AND THIS THING IS OVER.

WE HAVE TO FIND SAKA-MOTO.

.....

I'M GLAD.

YEAH.

YEAH.

IT WAS FUN.

AH.

MISS.

...

IS THIS YOURS?

I FOUND IT ON THE FLOOR.

IT'S A PICTURE OF A MAN.

The images burned in my mind won't fade away.

I DON'T NEED THAT ANYMORE.

Even without pictures,

without this building

and without his ghost,

...THANK YOU,

BUT

WE MIGHT HAVE MISSED SAKAMOTO-KUN..

WAH! WE'RE ON THE ROOF-TOP.

CREAK

EH?

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY FOR THIS.

IT'S PAST THE CLOSING TIME.

WAH!

THAT'S...

SORRY, IF I HAD KNOWN THAT, I WOULDN'T HAVE MADE YOU COME WITH US...

AH, KOKUBU-SAN, YOU DROPPED THIS.

Wow, it's so red.

IT'S OK.

IT'S NOT LIKE I WANTED TO SEE THE FLOWERS.

I ALREADY GOT WHAT I WANTED.

Me, too.

I had a great time today.

IT'S RED, ISN'T IT?

YEAH.

Hypnosis? Illusion?

we're looking at the same red.

I CANNOT SEE THE IMAGES SEEN BY THE PERSON I HYPNOTIZE

Even then, I think

Akaku Saku Koe Chapter 9 / End

http://www.aerandria.net

Bishies + glasses + tails = LOVE

Aerandria

http://aerandria.net | irc://irchighway.net/aerandria

Akaku Saku Koe
Volume 03
Chapter 009

SOURCE: MICHEX
TRANSLATOR: AKIKO
PROOFREADER: ASAHINA & BUMBLEBEE
EDITOR: CLAYMAVEN
QC: LACAILLE

One word KYAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!

OK so that isn't a word technicaly XD

- Lacaille

Akaku Saku Koe

I had a dream.

"KOKUBU-SAN."

I decided to leave the flowers in a room, and went out to call him.

CLOSE

I used magic to turn my feelings for Karashina-kun into flowers,

and I was on my way to show that bouquet to him.

No good. I can't hold all these...

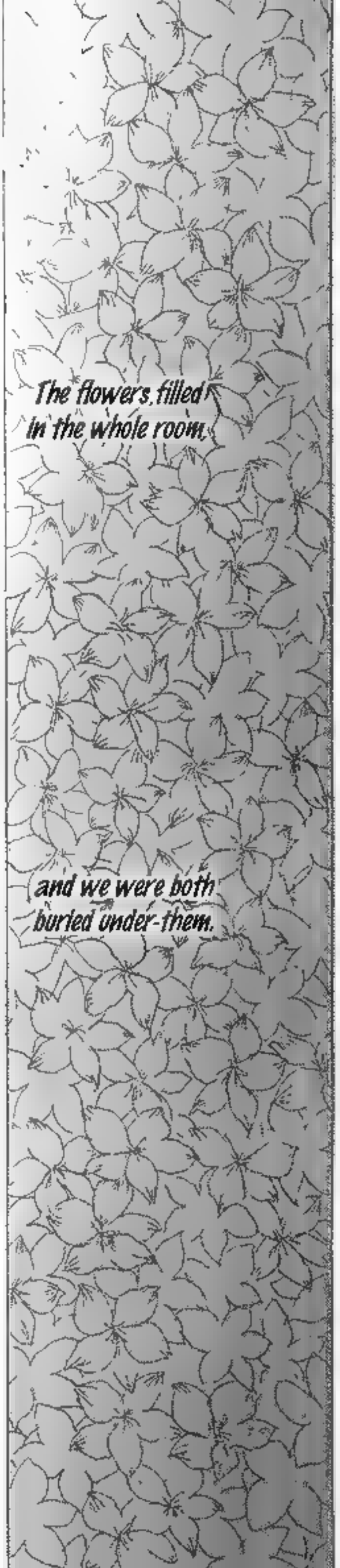
Proudly, I opened the door to show him, but...

"AH, GOOD, KARASHIMA-KUN."

"THERE'S SOMETHING I WANTED TO SHOW YOU."

Slept in.
A strange dream...
Instead of doing it in such a roundabout way.

Just because I can't say the words,
I'm a coward even in a dream...
I should have simply told him, "I love you."
I suffer so much.


The flowers filled in the whole room,
and we were both buried under them.

I wonder

how many words Karashima-kun has been swallowing.

AH. KOKUBU-SAN

JOLT

WAH!

KARA-SHIMA-KUN!

OPEN

IS SAKA-MOTO-KUN HERE?

Thump

Thump

Thump

HELLO.

Hello

.....

N-NO...

IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE TO SEE SAKAMOTO-KUN ESPECIALLY.

SHOULD I GET HIM?

EH.

AH.

...SAKAMOTO WENT TO THE CHEMISTRY LAB..

I WONDER WHERE YOU GOT IT

IT'S PRETTY.

T-

THANK YOU.

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

EH?

WELL...

Umm

A FLOWER PETAL.

IN MY DREAM...

GASP!

Not that... on the way to school...

EH?

NO, IT'S JUST THAT

I HAD A DREAM FILLED WITH RED FLOWERS...

EH.

SHOCK

Then I had that on me all day?

Good it's a half day

...IN YOUR DREAM?

EH?

I MET KARASHIMA-KUN IN MY DREAM.

OPEN

JOLT

OH, KOKU-BU.

SAKA-MOTO-KUN..

WHAT'S THAT...?

A kettle.

IT'S FOR MY DINNER.

Or for my lunch, rather

YOU REALLY HAVE BEEN EATING AT SCHOOL...

DAMN. YOU THOUGHT I WAS MAKING IT UP.

And I invited you earnestly.

IT'S RARE TO SEE YOU TWO TOGETHER.

...IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SAY, SAKAMOTO?

KOKUBU SHOULD KNOW WHAT KINDS OF THINGS THIS GUY IS UP TO.

THUMP

.....

WE'RE GOING TO *WORK* NOW, SO WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT IT.

NO, THAT'S OK

...SHOULD I LEAVE?

IF YOU JUST KEEP WAGGING YOUR TAIL AND FOLLOWING AFTER KAWAGUCHI, YOU'LL GET HURT BADLY AGAIN.

DID I HIT A NERVE?

KYA...

STOP, STOP!

Growl

Growl

Both of you said too much!!

IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, MR. WATCHMAN.

.....

.....

❀"Akaku Saku Koe"

Since this is my debut work, I've put my efforts to come up with various kinds of stories. Prior to this, my works concerned friendships, families, study/career goals, school mysteries, etc. For this story, I wanted to try many different genres and get the readers' opinions about them to find the best fit for me. That's how this story started with my intention to put the emphasis on creating a "love story." It was such hard work that at one time, I called up my editor in tears (T_T) Even though I declared to create a greater story than my last work, this story ended up being very inconspicuous. I felt inexplicably impatient and became depressed. It is because of my editor who fought beside me, alongside other editorial staff who decided to publish the story, and all those readers who wrote me encouraging letters that I was able to create this very precious, loving story.

YEAH, I'LL...

.....

HE'S NEVER GOING TO LISTEN TO ME.

THIS MIGHT TAKE TIME,

BUT I'LL BE THE PERSON THAT CAN PROTECT KARASHIMA-KUN.

TRY MY BEST.

WITH JUST ONE WORD, LIKE THAT.

TAP
TAP
.....
DING DONG
DING DONG
Ah, I have shopping to do Got to go
OK
...THANK YOU.
SEE YOU, SAKAMOTO-KUN.
Are my words, even a little,
reaching you, Karashima-kun?
BREEZE
KARA-SHIMA-KUN.

KARA-SHIMA-KUN.

Vol.4

EH, WHAT IS IT, KAWA-GUCHI-SAN?

...WERE YOU LIS-TENING?

...AH, YES...

"SMASH IN AND CAPTURE FORCEFULLY," RIGHT?

It's "Block the west stairs and en-croach from the east corridor" Kawaguchi

ISN'T IT A MATTER OF AN EX-PRESSION?

IT'S "SNEAK UP AND CAPTURE FLUIDLY!"

...IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE MY LAST CALL-IN.

THE ORGANIZA-TION MUST HAVE FELT A CHILL FROM THAT INCIDENT WHERE YOU HAD A CLOSE CALL WITH SHIBA.

.....

...WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

...LIKE THAT.

I'M NOT SUPPRESSING ANYTHING..

...THE ORGANIZATION'S AND MY AIMS DIFFER,

BUT WE ARE ALL WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

YOU'RE SUPPRESSING YOURSELF IN SO MANY WAYS THAT SOME TRIGGER MIGHT CAUSE YOU TO LOSE CONTROL ONE DAY. .

IF YOU KEEP DISMISSING EVERYTHING, YOU'LL LOSE SOMETHING IMPORTANT.

Something important...

.....

YES.

KAWAGUCHI.

KARA-
SHIMA-
KUN.

WE'RE
GOING.

YES.

!!!

Mumble

...

Mumble

...

PANT

HUFF

HUFF

OPEN

SLEEP.

THUD
CLATTER

KAWA-GUCHI-SAN..

ARE YOU OK?

THERE ARE NO MORE LEFT. WE'RE ORDERED TO HEAD BACK

!!!

EH, BUT WE'RE STILL MISSING A FEW

I'M SORRY...

NO NEED TO APOLO-GIZE.

LET'S FOLLOW THE ORDER FOR NOW.

...GOT AWAY MAYBE.

.....

SHALL WE GO FOR DINNER FOR A CHANGE?

EHH.

YAHOO!

THIS IS IT FOR A WHILE.

EH?

AH, NO-THING...

.....

.....

AH.

I THINK THIS WAY LEADS TO KOKUBU-SAN'S PLACE ..

DOES IT?

HM?

I'VE PASSED THIS WAY BEFORE.

I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE TO RUN AWAY FROM KOKUBU-SAN.

...KARA-SHIMA-KUN

BANG

SHUDDER

.....

KAWA-GUCHI-SAN, I...

WAIT HERE.

YOU CAN'T USE YOUR VOICE FROM A DISTANCE OUTSIDE.

!!!

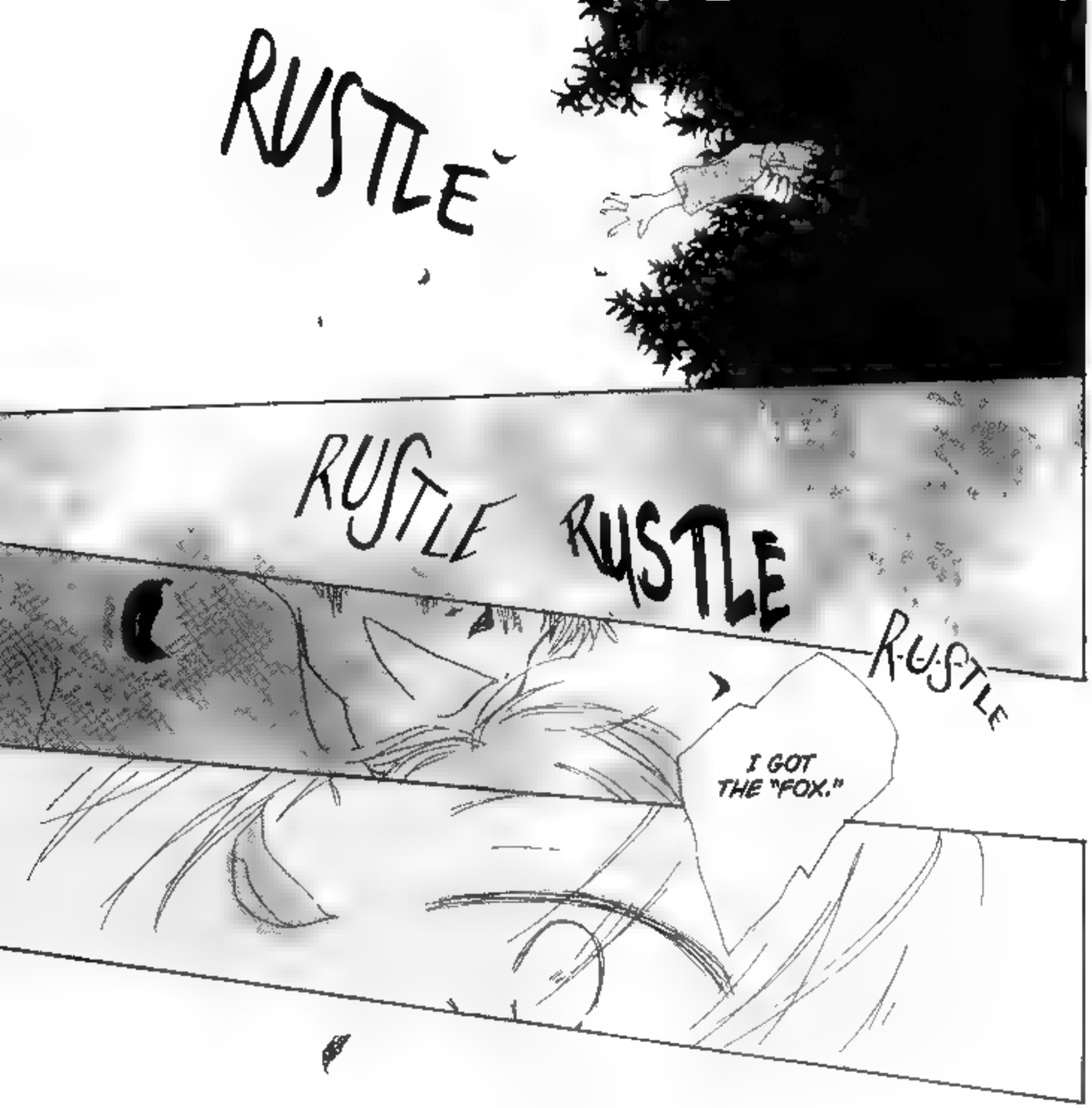
THAT SOUND...

THAT WAY.

IT'S A GUN SHOT.

DASH

RUSTLE



Here.

This is the road to Kokubu-san.

A pretty road filled with red flowers.

BREEZE

!

CHOMP

...such a thing here?

Am I...

bringing...

PULL

.....

.....

.....

BREEZE

WHACK

!

There's more...

!

.....

WOBBLE

STO...

Gasp

...SHIT. WHERE IS...

...HM...

Pant

Pant

WHAT'S WITH THOSE...

WHY...

ARE YOU OK, KARA-SHIMA-KUN?

Pant

WHY ARE YOU HERE, KOKUBU-SAN...?

I HEARD SOME NOISE FROM THE WOODS, SO I TOOK A LOOK...

I FOUND YOUR BAG ON MY WAY BACK FROM SHOPPING.

DOING THINGS LIKE THAT...

...WHY DO YOU ALWAYS...

I SAID IT'S DANGEROUS.

.....

THEN TELL ME...

...HOW CAN I STAY WITH YOU?

HOW CAN I...

GET CLOSE TO YOU, KARA-SHIMA-KUN?

TO STAY BESIDE YOU, KOKUBU-SAN. .

BANG BANG BANG

SHUTTER

How

WHAT AM I MISSING.

...I'M ALWAYS THINKING...

KARA...

SLEEP.

Ah, what a beautiful voice

If I, too, had such a beautiful voice, would you grant my wish?

Keep smiling.

Don't go away.

Don't do anything dangerous.

Stay close to me.

Be happy.

Stay with me.

Please.

Please.

Please.

"KARASHIMA-KUN"

"THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO SHOW YOU."

CLICK

KYO

KYO

...

JOLT

GASP

"WAH!"

KARA..

KOKU-
BU-SAN.

RUSTLE

!!!

KARA-
SHIMA-
KUN!

RUSTLE

KARA-
SHIMA-
KUN.

RUSTLE

YOUR HAND.

BREEZE

AH,

KOKUBU-SAN, IT'S OVER.

THEY'LL BE HERE SOON TO PICK US UP.

IT'S OK NOW...

AH.

AIDOMI, ARE YOU GOING HOME NOW?

KA-WARA.

YEP, ARE YOU GOING TO YOUR CRAM SCHOOL?

A RUMOR SAYS THAT HE WAS ASSAULTED BY SOME STRANGE GUY.

BECAUSE OF HIS VOICE...

PER-HAPS.

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I DON'T THINK KOKUBU SHOULD GO OUT WITH KARASHIMA.

YEAH. HOW'S KOKUBU?

SO-SO. KARASHIMA WASN'T AT SCHOOL TODAY...

ABSENT? GOT A COLD?

I CAN'T TAKE SEEING KOKUBU UNHAPPY.

AIDOMI.

HAVING MANY CHALLENGES DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE UNHAPPY.

IF YOU MEET A PERSON YOU'RE MEANT TO MEET,

AND ARE ABLE TO SHARE YOUR FEELINGS WITH THAT PERSON,

THEN TRYING AND PAINFUL THINGS DON'T MAKE YOU UNHAPPY.

KOKUBU WILL DO FINE.

...YEAH.

THAT'S RIGHT...

YOU'RE R.GHT.

BREEZE

KARA-
SHIMA-
KUN

WATCH
THIS.

THE RED FLOWERS YOU SHOWED ME,

THEY WERE SO MUCH MORE BEAUTIFUL.

see the snow fall,

see cherry blossoms,

watch a sunset,

hear raindrops,

stand in a grass field,

or see red flowers...

You know, Karashima-kun,

when I

I always, always think about you,

and my heart is filled with you.

I'M...

IN LOVE WITH YOU, KARASHIMA-KUN.

...I remember you, Karashima-kun.

BREEZE

THAT'S OK.

I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO SPEND TOO MUCH TIME WITH YOU.

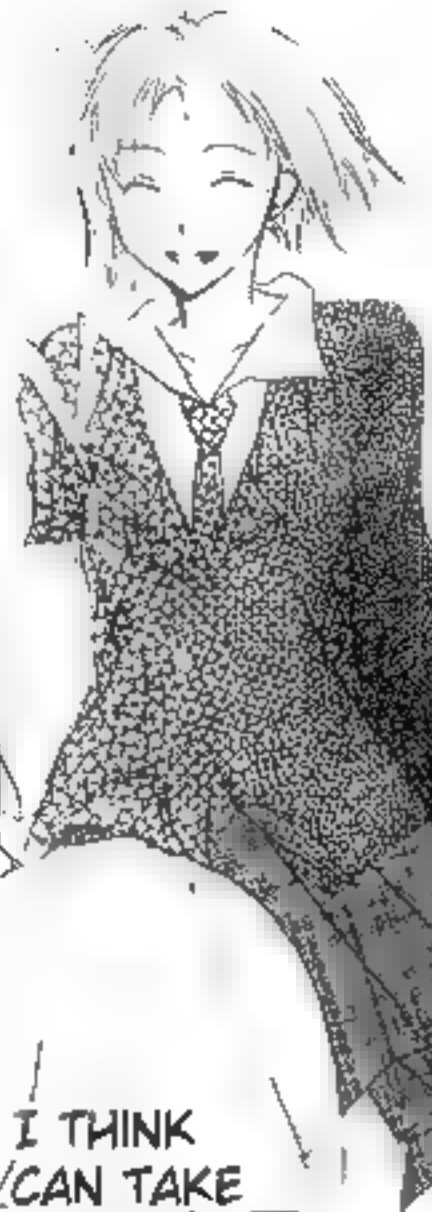
.....

THAT TIME,

I'M SO GLAD YOU CHASED ME.

IF YOU HAVE ANY FEELINGS FOR ME,

EVEN JUST A LITTLE,

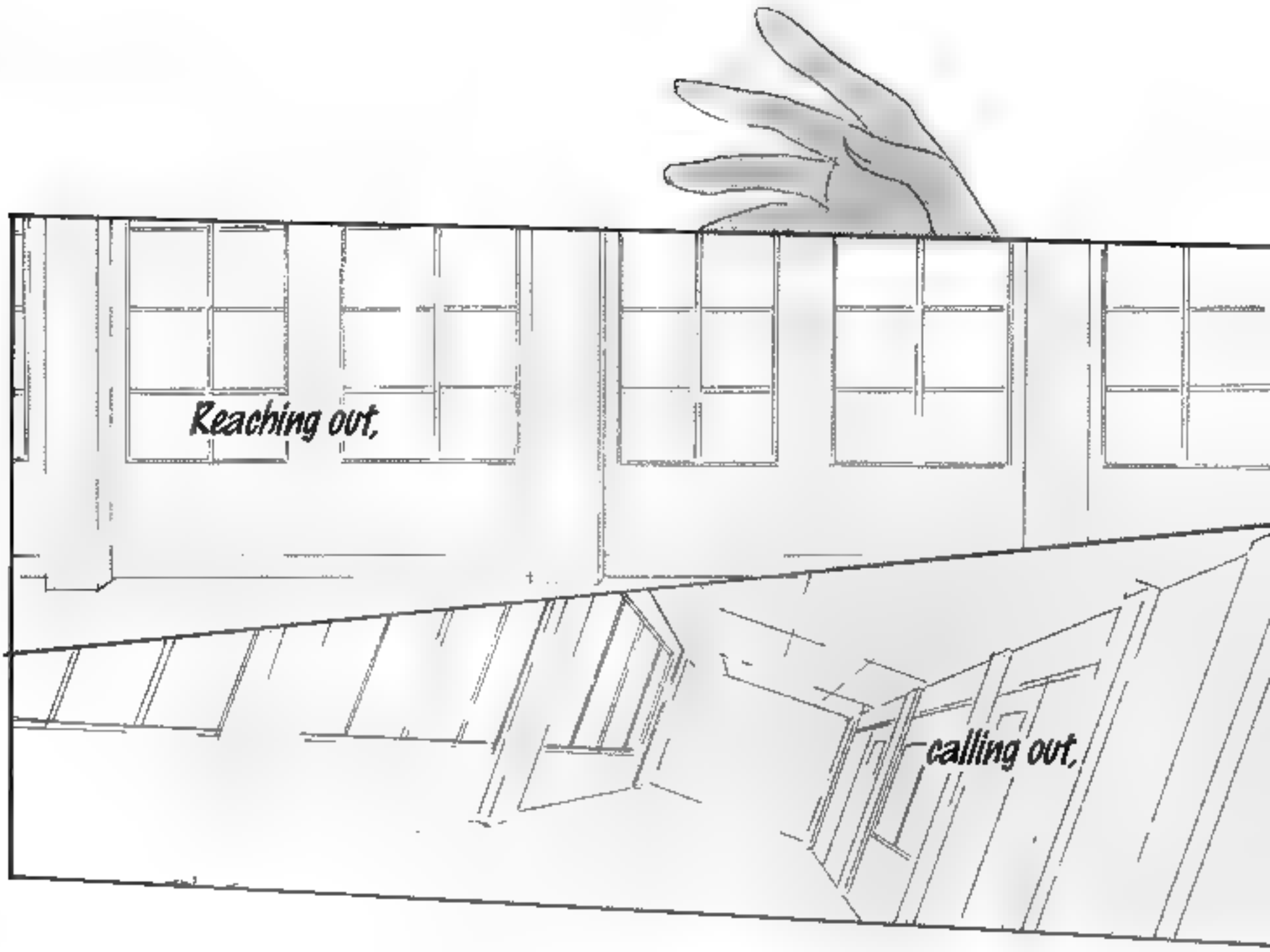


I THINK I CAN TAKE ANYTHING.

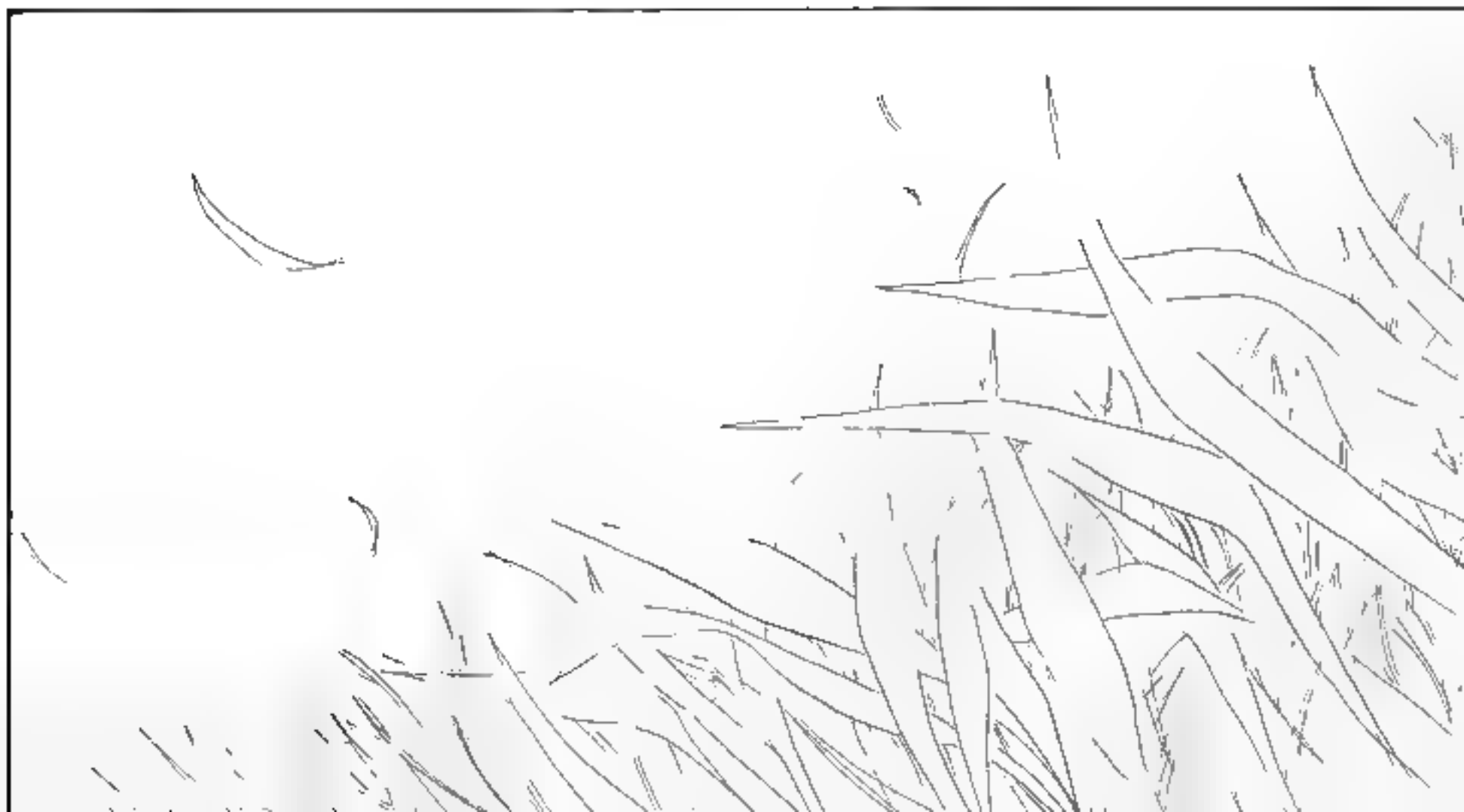
OTHERWISE, I WOULD HAVE KEPT ON LIVING...

WITHOUT KNOWING YOU.

I LOVE YOU.



deep within our hearts,



things that
blossom.

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Akaku Saku Koe
Volume 03
Chapter 011

SOURCE: MICHEK
TRANSLATOR: AKIKO
PROOFREADER: GUMBLEBEE & ASAHIKA
EDITORS: CLAYMAVEN
QC: LACAILLE

One more chapter to go!!! If these two don't get together and have a million babies, I don't know what I'll do!

- Lacaille

あかく咲く声

あかくさくこえ

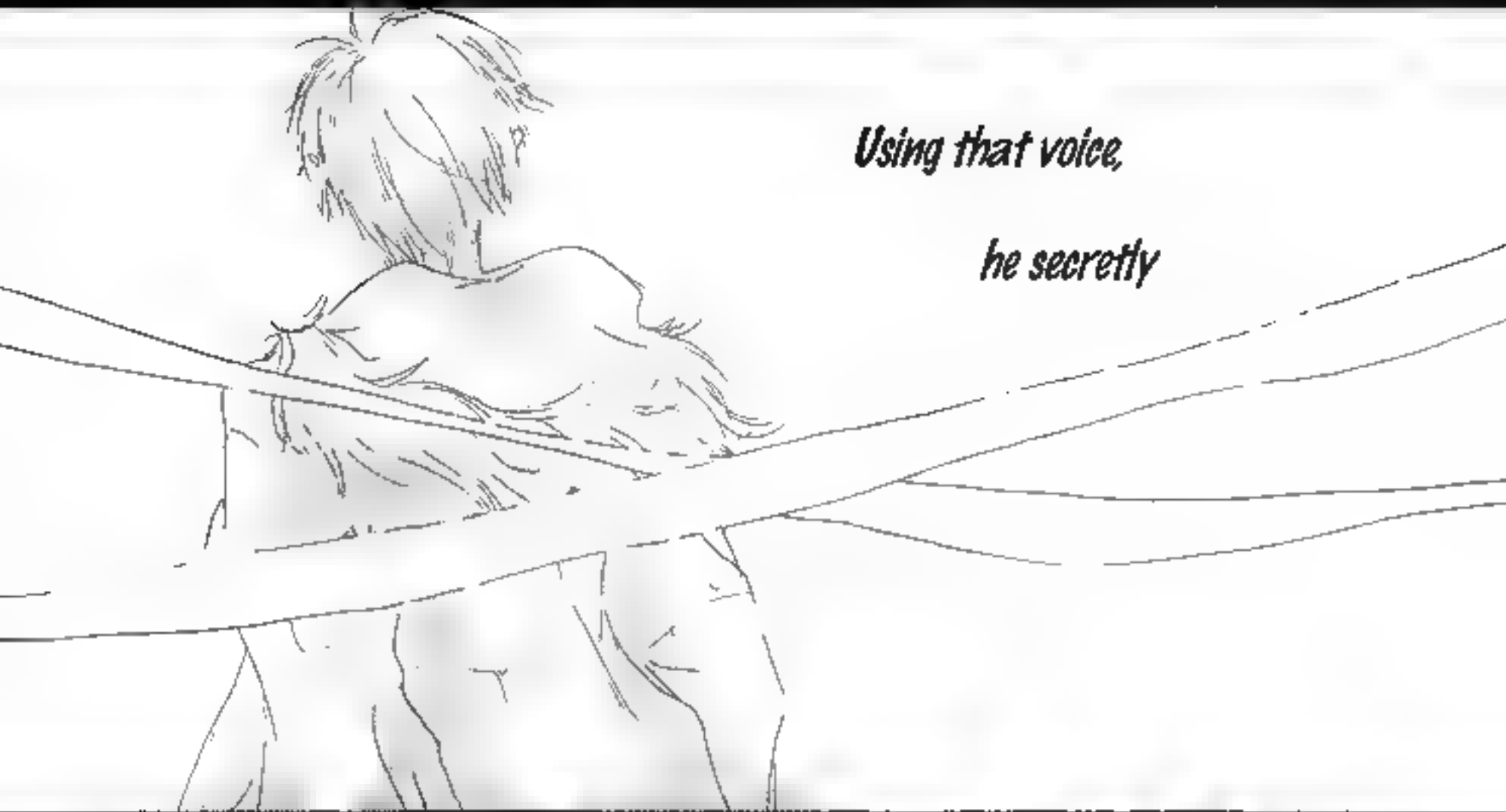
Akaku Saku Koe

Chapter 11

Karashima's voice is very pleasant to people's ears,

so much so that it creates drug-like substances within their minds

that hypnotize and show them illusions.



Using that voice,

he secretly

works for the police's special unit force.

He is called the "Fox" for he puts a fox mask on the scene. Apparently, a rumor about him has started to go around the underground society recently.

However, most criminals lose consciousness before they ever have a chance to see him when they hear his word, "Sleep."

That power is so incredible that even the organization which asks for his assistance somewhat fears what he might do.

That is why

I work as Karashima's "watchman" for the organization.

.....

.....

.....

HEY, ISN'T THAT "FOX" OVER THERE?

?!

Dash

AH!

JUST DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!

WAIT!

A RUMOR SAYS THAT "FOX" BRINGS DOOM.

Pant

Pant

Gasp

THIS COULD BE THE CHANCE TO CAPTURE HIM!

ISN'T HE ACTING STRANGE, THOUGH?

THAT SATOMI GOT CAUGHT MESSING WITH "FOX", THEY SAY. WHY DON'T WE JUST LEAVE HIM...

!!!

GRAB

THUD

!

CLUNK

Clench

OK. DON'T LET HIM GO!

DID YOU GET HIM?!

DON'T TOUCH.

SAKA-MOTO,

IS KOKUBU-SAN YOUR GIRLFRIEND?

HM?

YOU TWO ARE ALWAYS TALKING ALONE.

Kokubu has been in love with him knowing his situation, but...

She's not?

AHAHA! NOT MINE.

it seems like those two...

03

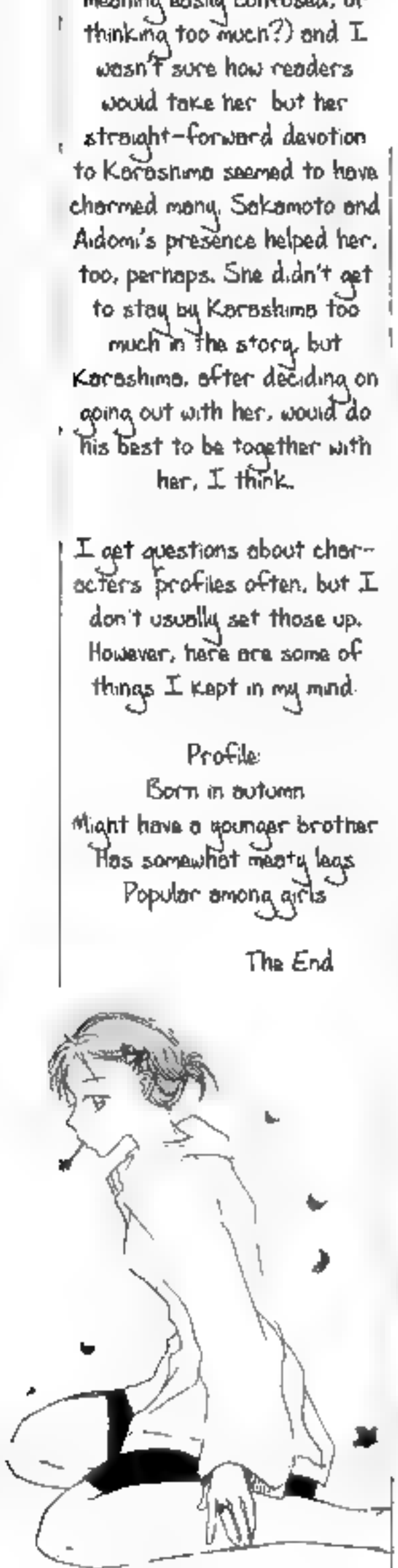
❀ "Kokubu"

Right after the first story, most of letters I received were from Karashima fans by far. Now, Kokubu has as many fans as he does. She is often running in circles* (*or "thinking in circles" meaning easily confused, or thinking too much?) and I wasn't sure how readers would take her but her straight-forward devotion to Karashima seemed to have charmed many. Sakamoto and Aidomi's presence helped her, too, perhaps. She didn't get to stay by Karashima too much in the story, but Karashima, after deciding on going out with her, would do his best to be together with her, I think.

I get questions about characters' profiles often, but I don't usually set those up. However, here are some of things I kept in my mind.

Profile:
Born in autumn
Might have a younger brother
Has somewhat meaty legs
Popular among girls

The End



I SAW KAWAGUCHI-SAN GOT REALLY MAD AT HIM FOR SKIPPING THE LAST ONE...

Like a kid.

Was he?

Kawa-guchi-san is a work partner of Karashima, and one of few he has taken in.

HUH? YOU DON'T USUALLY TAKE THIS WAY, KOKUBU.

KARASHIMA-KUN SHOULD HAVE GONE FOR AN APPOINTMENT AT THE HOSPITAL, SO I'M GOING TO CHECK ON HIM.

That's good.

IS THAT SO.

WHAT'S UP?

UNLESS THERE IS AN EMERGENCY "CALL-IN"..

Nah.

NOTHING IMPORTANT.

BUT WHY HAS KARASHIMA NEVER BEEN COMFORTABLE AROUND ME?

WELL,

YOU DO HAVE A BIT OF A MEAN WAY OF TALKING, YOU KNOW.

KARASHIMA CAN BE SOMEWHAT SNEAKY, DON'T YOU THINK?

THE REASON HE DOESN'T SAY WHAT HE WANTS,

THE REASON HE CAN'T CONVEY HOW HE FEELS...

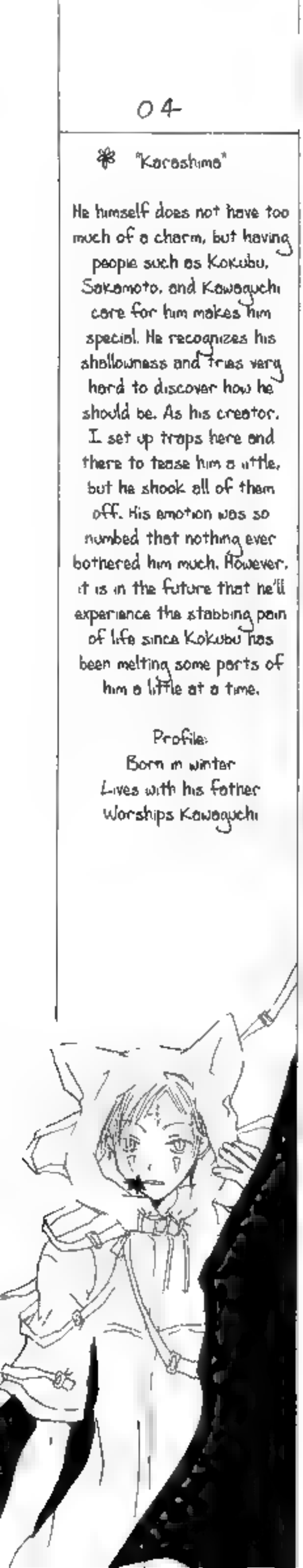
HE CAN BLAME EVERYTHING ON HIS VOICE.

04

❀ "Karashima"

He himself does not have too much of a charm, but having people such as Kokubu, Sakamoto, and Kawaguchi care for him makes him special. He recognizes his shallowness and tries very hard to discover how he should be. As his creator, I set up traps here and there to tease him a little, but he shook all of them off. His emotion was so numbed that nothing ever bothered him much. However, it is in the future that he'll experience the stabbing pain of life since Kokubu has been melting some parts of him a little at a time.

Profile:
Born in winter
Lives with his father
Worships Kawaguchi



AH!

EH?

RELIES ON YOU THE MOST, SAKA-MOTO-KUN.

YOU SPOIL HIM TOO MUCH, KOKUBU.

FUFU, MAYBE,

BUT I THINK KARA-SHIMA-KUN ACTUALLY

WAH! KOKU-BU?!

DASH

RUNS

HEY! WHAT'S WRONG?

RUNS

OVER THERE.. SAKA-MOTO-KUN, THERE'S SOMETHING WHITE ON THE GROUND.

HM?

KOKUBU?

DASH

EH,

KOKU-BU...

WHERE'S THE ENTRANCE TO THIS BUILDING?

SOMETHING FELL FROM THERE...?

GASP

It's Karashima's...

KOKU...

5
4
3
2
1

THE WINDOW ON THE FIFTH FLOOR..

NO TENANTS THERE.

Empty floor.

.....

IT'S LOCKED.

RATTLE

RATTLE

RATTLE

CALM DOWN, KOKUBU.

WE DON'T KNOW IF ANYTHING HAPPENED OR NOT...

YOU KNOW SAKAMOTO-KUN...

KARASHIMA-KUN'S VOICE WAS A LITTLE STRANGE TODAY, I THINK.

EH...

I MIGHT HAVE IMAGINED IT, BUT KARASHIMA-KUN LOOKED A LITTLE PALE...

I didn't notice it...

.....

IN JUNIOR HIGH, HE LOOKED PALE SOMETIMES... IT WAS AROUND THE TIME HIS VOICE GOT DEEPER.

KARASHIMA HAS TH S EX-TREME FEAR OF LOSING HIS VOICE.

EH, WHY...

YOU KNOW WHY.

DO YOU THINK KARASHIMA DOES THIS KIND OF WORK OUT OF GOOD WILL ALONE?

IF HE HAS TROUBLE USING HIS VOICE, THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING I CAN HELP WITH.

I DON'T THINK THERE IS.

BUT...

STAY OUT HERE, KOKUBU.

WELL, I'LL GET IN THROUGH THE DUCT AND TAKE A LOOK.

THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN HELP WITH.

YOU'LL ONLY BURDEN KARASHIMA WHO LOST HIS VOICE.

KOKUBU,

IF YOU AND KARASHIMA FELL INTO THE RIVER TOGETHER,

I HAVE TO RESCUE KARASHIMA FIRST.

.....

THAT'S MY JOB.

I CAN'T TAKE YOU.

DON'T MAKE ME CHOOSE BETWEEN YOU TWO.

YEAH.

.....

I GOT IT.

OK. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

THUMP

BONK

"BUT IF I DON'T COME BACK IN FIVE MINUTES, CALL THE POLICE"

DASH

The broken window must be this way...

Had I said too much...

Why did I have to say something like that?

No.

Focus, focus...

Pant

Pant

FWOOSH

GASP

THUD

!

KARA-SHIMA!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING...

PULL

OW...

WE TIED HIM UP. HE CAN'T RUN AWAY THAT EASILY.

SHIT.

WHERE DID THAT FOX GO?

JOLT

RUNS

RUNS

RUNS

WE HAVE TO CATCH HIM.

So something is happening...

Depressed

It's time.

Got to go.

THIS IS BAD. WHERE DID HE GO?

CLICK

CLICK

Someone's coming upstairs...

CLICK

CLICK

You'll just burden Karashima more

But there's nowhere to hide..

That's the last thing I want!!!

CLICK

CLICK

CLICK

IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE'S ESCAPED OUTSIDE, BUT THE MASK IS MISSING...

That makes meeting them here a bad idea...

Escaped..? Karashima-kun was captured?!

CLICK

CLICK

GULP!

CLICK

CLICK

CLICK

Clench

!

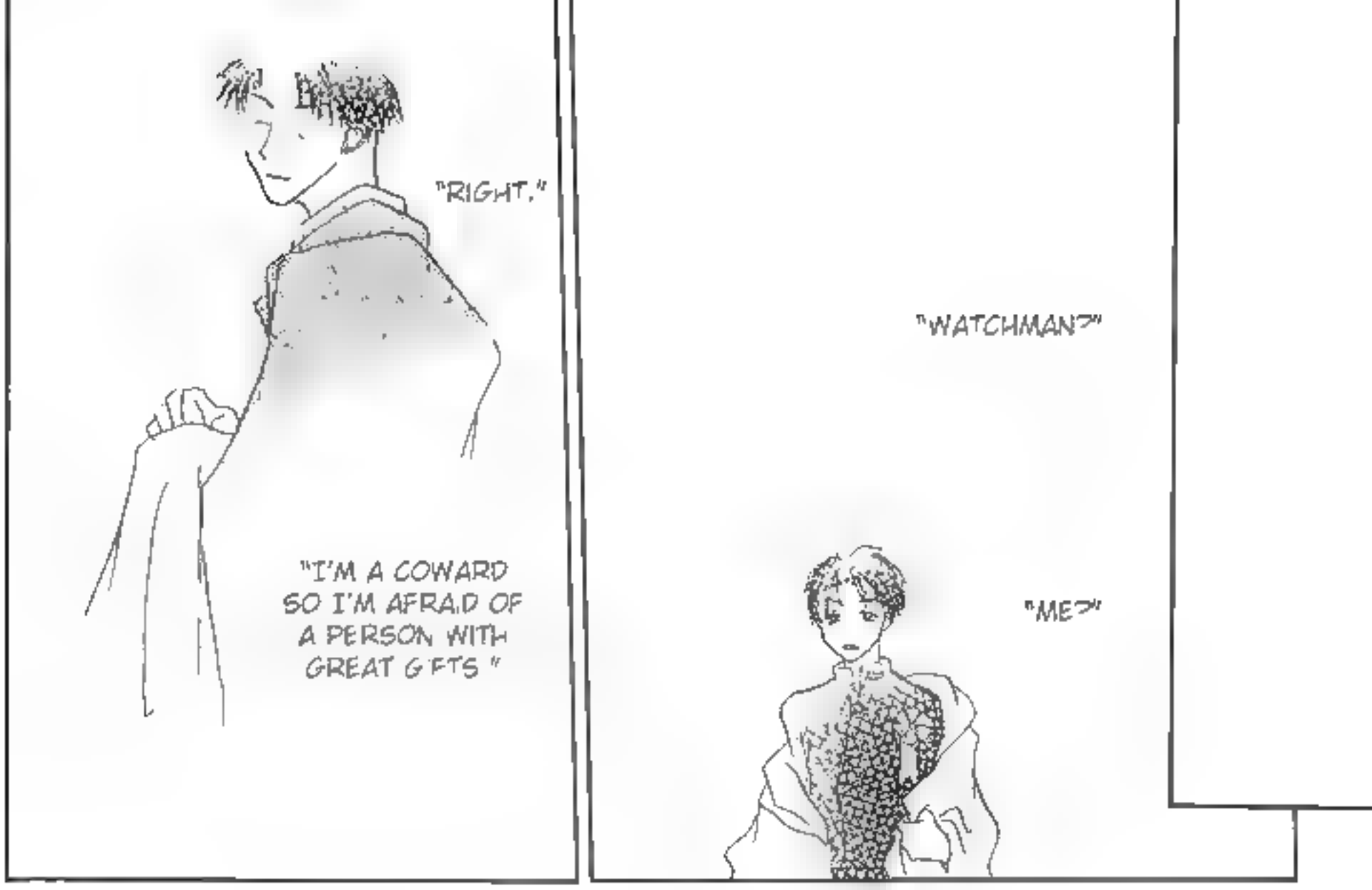
HEY! WAIT!

I got past him!

HEY!

CATCH THAT GIRL!

!!!



That's why I want you to protect him and keep watch.

If he ever strays to a wrong path,

make sure you don't miss that moment.

NO.
It's against the law.
I'M IN A BIND, THEN...
GASP
SAKAMOTO, DO YOU HAVE ANY-THING TO CUT THIS WITH?
DID YOU LOCK THE DOOR?
YEAH, BUT WE'LL BE FOUND OUT SOON.

SO... WHY ARE YOU HERE, SAKAMOTO?

DON'T YOU GET TOO CARRIED AWAY OR YOU'LL HEAR FROM ME LATER, SAKAMO-CCHI*.

Be very sure before you do anything.

ISN'T THIS A GREAT CHANCE FOR ME?! IN MANY WAYS!!!

To finally get back at you!!

*T/N: KARASHIMA IS CALLING SAKAMOTO IN AN UNUSUALLY FRIENDLY WAY TO BE SARCASTIC

THE MASK WAS ON THE GROUND.

IT FLEW AWAY WHEN I GOT HIT.

ON THE WAY TO THE HOSPITAL, I SAW A WANTED CRIMINAL ENTERING THIS BUILDING.

INSIDE THERE WAS A GROUP OF THEM WHO SEEMED TO BE HIS PEOPLE I WAS WEARING MY UNIFORM, BUT HAD MY MASK, SO I WAS PLANNING TO PUT THEM ALL TO SLEEP BEFORE THEY SAW ME..

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?

SO YOUR VOICE REALLY WASN'T WORKING, AS I THOUGHT.

.....

HOW DID YOU NOTICE? IT ONLY CHANGED A LITTLE BIT.

Kokubu did.

IT WAS A LITTLE STRANGE SINCE THIS MORNING,

BUT I THOUGHT NOTHING SERIOUS FOR THE NEXT TWO OR THREE DAYS AT LEAST—

.....

DON'T DO THIS KIND OF THING WHEN YOU'RE NOT WELL.

SMACK

.....

.....

ANYWAY,

ACT MORE CAUTIOUSLY, WILL YOU?

HO—

YOU'RE UNUSUALLY HONEST TODAY. IT'S GIVING ME THE CREEPS.

YOU SAVED ME.

THANK YOU.

Since you're not alone anymore.

ISN'T IT OK ONCE IN A WHILE?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

WHY JUST ONCE IN A WHILE?

BE NICE TO ME ALWAYS!

I CAN'T BE A BUDDY TO YOU.

SAKAMOTO, CAN YOU FIND A CHANCE TO GET AWAY?

EH?

HUH?

RUNS

RUNS

I TRIED AND FOUND OUT THAT IF I SPEAK LOUD ENOUGH RIGHT BY THEIR EARS, MY VOICE STILL KIND OF WORKS.

THERE ARE SEVEN OF THEM. I SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE THEM ONE BY ONE.

EH?

I'LL STAY AND KEEP A WATCH A LITTLE LONGER.

!!!

SMACK

?!

DON'T OVERRATE YOURSELF OR YOU'LL GET HURT.

BUT I'M WAY STRONGER, YOU SEE.

YOU'RE NOT TOO BAD YOURSELF.

.....

PUSH

ANNOYED

PUSH

PUSH

PUSH

WHOOSH

SWING

I KNOW I ACTED RECKLESSLY.

AND I CANNOT GET CLOSE TO KOKUBU-SAN.

IF I LET THEM GO NOW, IT'LL BE TROUBLE FOR KAWAGUCHI-SAN AND OTHERS.

BUT THEY ALREADY SAW MY FACE.

GASP

AHH, FOX...

JOLT

WHO ARE YOU?!

REACH

TH

!!!

UD

WHA—

!

?!

SLEEP.

.....

.....

Limp

THE FIRST ONE.

Is it because I'm also a coward, I wonder?

and that makes me feel rather uneasy.

At a time like this, I can almost see through something dark at the other side of him.

SO...

ARE YOU CRAZY? I CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THIS!

I HAVE TO DO THIS.

.....

YOU'LL GO AROUND WHISPERING TO SIX OTHERS?

Some fairy.*

*T/N: LIKE A FAIRY-TALE FAIRY

I NEVER ASKED YOU TO.

WHAT?!

.....

DASH

KARA-SHIMA...

...HM?

!

EH?

JUST NOW...

A VOICE...

PANT
PULL
PANT
PANT
PANT
I FOUND A CHANCE AND ESCAPED, BUT...
I GOT CAUGHT, TOO.
Couldn't find the exit
EH?!
AGAIN, I'M CAUSING YOU TROUBLE...
...I'M SORRY.
KARASHIMA-KUN.
KOKUBU-SAN, WHY ARE YOU HERE?
NO, THIS IS...
GASP

?!

DID YOU CALL IT, FOX?

THERE'S A POLICE CAR DOWN THERE.

WHACK

SO THE RUMOR IS TRUE.

YOU DO BRING US DOOM.

PULL

KOKU...

LEAV...

BANG

THIS IS THE SECOND ONE.

I'LL HELP YOU THIS TIME. LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH AND GO HOME QUICKLY.

SAKA-MOTO!

...THANK YOU.

.....

OK. HOW ABOUT YOU TWO?

WE'LL MAKE SURE THE REST OF THE FIVE WON'T ESCAPE.

...

I WAS SCREAMING WHEN I GOT CAUGHT, SO SOMEONE MIGHT HAVE HEARD ME AND CALLED...

...SO WAS IT YOU WHO CALLED THE POLICE?

HM? NO...

ANYWAY, HIDE IN THAT ROOM UNTIL THE POLICE ARRIVE, KOKUBU-SAN.

Karashima and I went around and kept catching them.

I lost the track of things and I don't remember much to tell the truth.

WE'LL BE BACK SOON.

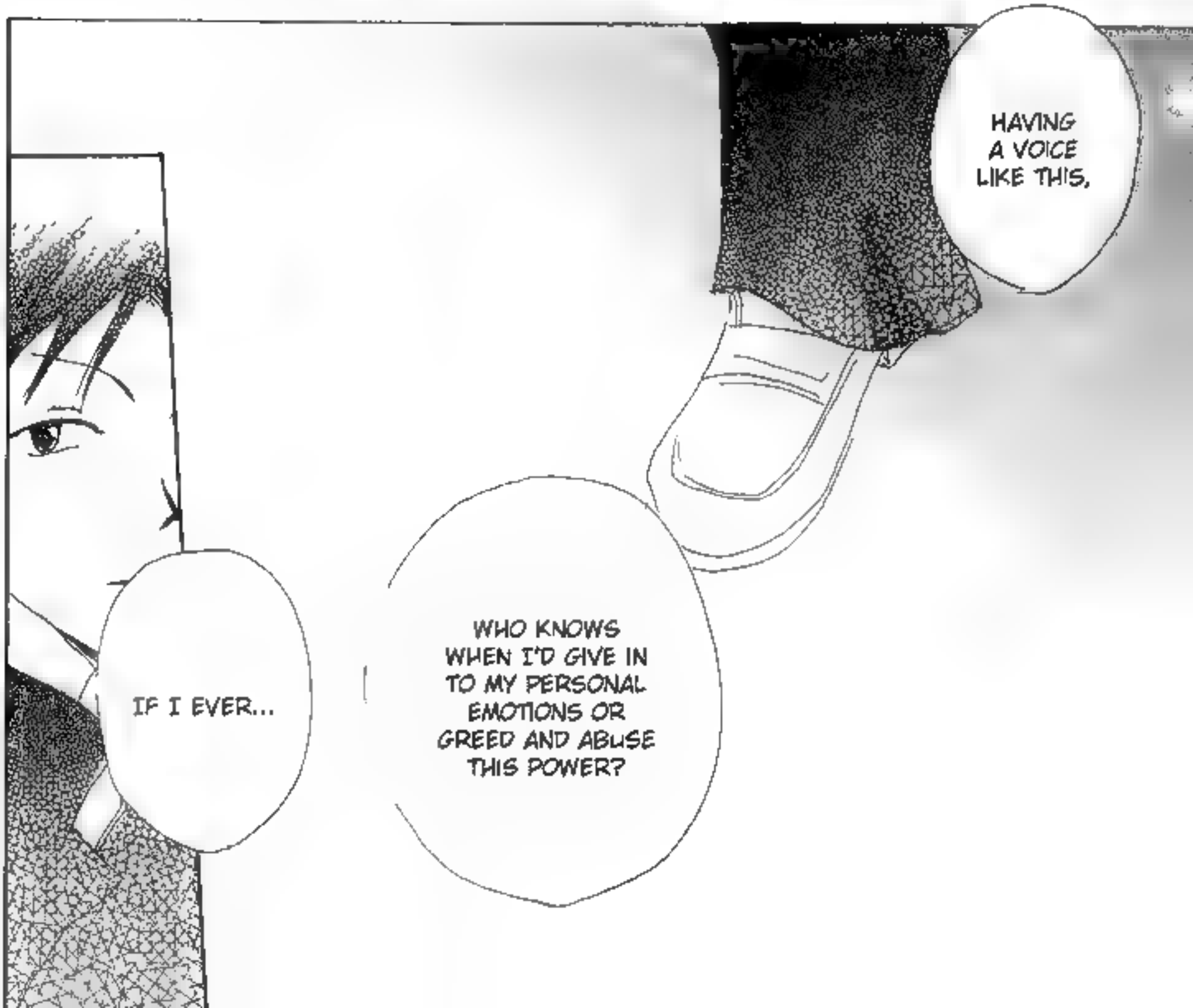
After that,

After the incident was over, we were all seriously scolded by Kawaguchi-san and the others.

Karashima got a fever and collapsed.

His voice change really was caused by a cold,

and soon enough, he regained his usual voice.



...LOSE MYSELF TO THOSE DARK THINGS.

I WANT YOU TO ACT ON YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS A "WATCHMAN" WITHOUT HESITATION, SAKAMOTO.

THAT'S WHY WE CAN'T BE "BUDDIES."

Will there be a day that I have to make such a harsh decision?

Ahh.

.....

...RIGHT.

IT REALLY HAS BEEN ASSURING TO KNOW THAT I'M UNDER YOUR SURVEILLANCE I FEEL A LITTLE AT EASE THAT WAY.

SAKA-MOTO-KUN.

KOKUBU.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE KARASHIMA-KUN IS?

HE WAS OVER THERE.

EH?

SORRY FOR SAYING MEAN STUFF THE OTHER DAY.

I'VE BEEN RELYING ON YOU, SAKAMOTO.

KARASHIMA IS ABLE TO WORK WITH KAWAGUCHI-SAN BECAUSE OF HIS VOICE.

BUT RECENT-LY,

HE'S CHANGED A LITTLE, I THINK.

HE BECAME MORE AND MORE OBSESSED WITH THE WORK.

THERE WASN'T ANY-THING ELSE HE COULD PUT HIS HEART INTO, SO AFTER KNOWING THE JOY OF BE-ING NEEDED,

KARASHIMA IS ALSO STRUGGLING WITH HIS EMOTIONS

BUT BECAUSE OF HIS VOICE HE CAN'T APPROACH KOKUBU-SAN EASILY.

BECAUSE OF HIS VOICE, HE CAN WORK WITH KAWAGUCHI-SAN.

TO STAY WITH YOU, KOKUBU.

Karashima is selfish...

YEAH.

...but I'll let him
rely on me

for a little bit more.

Somehow that's
good for me, too,
I think.

Ah, please...

Don't let them
fall in the river
together.

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Akaku Saku Koe
Volume 03
Chapter 012

SOURCE: MICHEX
TRANSLATOR: AKIKO
PROOFREADER: ASAHINA & BUMBLEBEE
EDITOR: CLAYMAVEN & RUAKA
QC: JESSA

We got to see so much of Karashima from the past and present What a treat! But Im sad that we won't be seeing any more of the fox, Unit Zero, and Kokubu

Jessa

One casual word from a friend,
and my career was set.

That's how carefree I was...

If you don't have anything to protect, why don't you protect the civil peace?

KAWA-
GUCHI.

until that day.

AKAKU SAKU KOE

since that time.

It's been over four years

Akaku Saku Koe

HELLO, KAWAGUCHI-SAN.

BUT WHY ARE YOU STUDYING OUTSIDE?

I have never seen such a bad mark.

famous public school graduate

AH.

YOU...

MY FATHER IS OFF WORK AT HOME.

too many days off

failing mark

I GOT THIS.

HA HA

HA HA

WAAH.

KOKUBU-SAN! LONG TIME NO SEE.

I HEARD YOU GUYS ARE FINALLY GOING OUT TOGETHER, RIGHT?

Y-

YES!

I still have long way to go.*

But please look over me.**

blush

HOW NICE TO BE YOUNG

ARE YOU GOING OUT WITH ANYONE, KAWAGUCHI-SAN?

you must be popular

WELL...

I GET DUMPED QUITE OFTEN.

"YOU'RE TOO COLD," "YOU HAVE NO CLASS," "YOU'RE TOO PERVERTED," AND ETC.

Too stingy, chick-head.

Not meant faced for nothing, huh?

Chick?

*MEANING SHE IS STILL UNACCOMPLISHED AS A PERSON
**A TYPICAL GREETING FOR FUTURE IN-LAWS
KOKUBU IS TREATING KAWAGUCHI LIKE KARASHIMA'S GUARDIAN

KAWAGUCHI-SAN, DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS AFTER THIS? IT'S YOUR DAY OFF TODAY, ISN'T IT?

THAT'S RIGHT

THE THREE OF US SHOULD HAVE A FEAST TO CELEBRATE...

...

BUT...

I HAVE PLANS AFTER ALL.

LET'S MAKE IT ANOTHER TIME.

IS THERE SOME-THING WRONG?

I'D LIKE TO LOOK UP A FEW THINGS.

REALLY.

CAN I HELP?

NO, YOU CAN'T.

SEE YOU LATER.

05

❀ Kawaguchi

Both Sakamoto and Aidomi became more popular than him, but in importance, he's number three. He didn't have many chances to mingled with students ^^; Looking back now, I had the most fun drawing him. He looks like a nice person, but in fact has more problems than Karashima.

PROFILE

Born in autumn.
No family.
Workaholic.
Can't smoke.
He's called young star and "chick", etc., but has a few underlings already.

❀ Sakamoto

I took care of him so that he stays behind Kawaguchi, however the result was... ^^; He is an underdog and I couldn't describe him too much in detail, but is the most lonesome person in this story.

PROFILE

Born in winter
Both parents work in the police organization.

Obsessed with: pudding and Karashima
Hates: instant noodles
Concerned with: Kokubu

The end

SORRY, KARASHIMA-KUN. MAYBE KAWAGUCHI-SAN SAID THAT SINCE I'M HERE.
BASICALLY, HE'S AGAINST ME WORKING THIS JOB.
EH...
NO, THAT'S HOW HE USUALLY IS.

I HEARD THAT HE WAS NO FAMILY

AH, BUT .

FOUND HIM.

I THINK HE S ONE OF THE WANTED

Kawaguchi

KAWA-GUCHI.

YOU KNOW THIS BOY, DON'T YOU?

YES I SECURED HIM AT THE AKITSU INCIDENTS.

KAWAGUCHI, YOU'LL BE HIS BODYGUARD DURING HIS DUTY.

HUH?

KARASHIMA-KUN HAS A VERY UNUSUAL VOICE

THAT'S RIGHT IT'S BEEN DECIDED THAT HE'LL BE WORKING WITH US FROM TIME TO TIME

ONLY SMALL KIDS? THIS IS A GOOD CHANCE
What do you mean?
POLICE
BUT I DON'T GET IT WHY ME? I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT TAKING CARE OF SMALL KIDS.
YOU SHOULD LEARN MORE.
NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT. IT'S ALREADY BEEN DECIDED.
Unit zero has it hard, huh?
SLEEP -TALK
IN YOUR SLEEP ONLY!!!
COULDN'T SAY THAT TO SERGEANT, THOUGH .
too dumb- founded

KARA-SHIMA-KUN.

DID SERGEANT MIYAHARA CALL YOU?

for the briefing

nod

HE DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE MUCH OF A PRESENCE.

...

YOU WERE HURT FIGHTING?

LET ME SEE.

flinch

SWISH

KAWAGUCHI.

.....

AKAKU SAKU KOE

AT THE HANATACHI BUILDING, WHERE THE SECRET BASE OF A GUN MANUFACTURING GROUP IS SUPPOSED TO BE,

FOR THE SEARCH IN THREE DAYS..

SO,

...

SERIOUSLY ?

POLICE

THERE WILL BE A CIVILIAN BOY JOINING...

TO ASSIST US.

We got to look up this meeting room

KAWAGUCHI-KUN, HURRY UP AND LEAVE

...

...

Don't linger

sigh

...

CONTACT MIYAHARA OF UNIT ZERO FOR ANY QUESTIONS.

THAT'S ALL.

EHH?

HE LEFT A LONG TIME AGO.

HUH? WHERE'S KARASHIMA-KUN?

Ok

Keep it up

his cold stares,

silently.

he was looking down

Some-times I could sense

as if he's observing, or looking through, something.

I couldn't read his facial expres-sions.

like before,

The next day, he came to the HQ again but,

He didn't warm up to me readily.

To be honest, he creeped me out.

THAT KID
REMINDS ME OF YOU, KAWAGUCHI-KUN.
HOUK
BUT WHY WERE YOU PICKED TO WORK WITH HIM? YOU'RE NOT SUITED FOR THAT
THAT'S NOT MY INTENTION..
LIKE TRYING TO DILUTE YOUR RELA-TIONSHIPS WITH THE OTHERS.
LIKE HOW?
WEll.., LIKE THE AIR AROUND YOU.

.....

I WOULDN'T HAVE ACCEPTED SUCH A BIG RESPONSIBILITY IF IT WASN'T AN ORDER.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS TO SERGEANT MIYAHARA.

KAWA-GUCHI-KUN.

IT'S..

DANGEROUS TO PAIR HIM UP WITH A PERSON LIKE YOU.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

ARE YOU OK WITH THIS?

YOU DON'T LIKE WORKING WITH ME?

TO RELY ON THAT VOICE OF YOURS.

TO TAKE A KID LIKE YOU TO A CRIME SCENE OR..

I DON'T FEEL GREAT ABOUT IT

BECAUSE OF THIS VOICE, I CAN BE OF A USE TO SOMEONE.

HAS A MEANING, I THOUGHT

EVEN THIS VOICE.

WHEN THEY ASKED ME, I WAS HAPPY

IF I'M NEEDED,

I WANT TO DO THIS.

TO BE SAFE, WE TRY TO KEEP QUIET, BUT PERHAPS YOU SHOULD KNOW

I'M CONCERNED, MORE LIKE..

HE'S NORMAL

YOU'RE GETTING INTO THIS, KAWAGUCHI.

KARASHIMA-KUN'S HOME ENVIRONMENT?

HE LIVES ALONE WITH HIS FATHER WHO WORKS A CONSTRUCTION-RELATED JOB.

HE WORKED ON THE BUILDING WHERE THE AKITSU INCIDENT OCCURRED.

LOOKS LIKE HE'S TOO BUSY TO SPEND TIME WITH HIS SON, THOUGH

HUH.

Even so,

He is his only relative. How can he let him do this kind of work?

...

...HUH?

THE KID LEFT ALREADY.

EHH, AGAIN?! I WAS GOING TO TAKE HIM HOME...

YOU CAN GO HOME FOR TODAY, TOO.

BYE

YES.

TURN

...

FLOMP

If I'm needed...

AKAKU SAKU KOE

Listen, Kawaguchi.

You've got to protect Karashima-kun, even if you have to sacrifice yourself.

SHIT...

...

YES.

SCARED?

GOOD.
SO AM I.

RUN
RUN
RUN

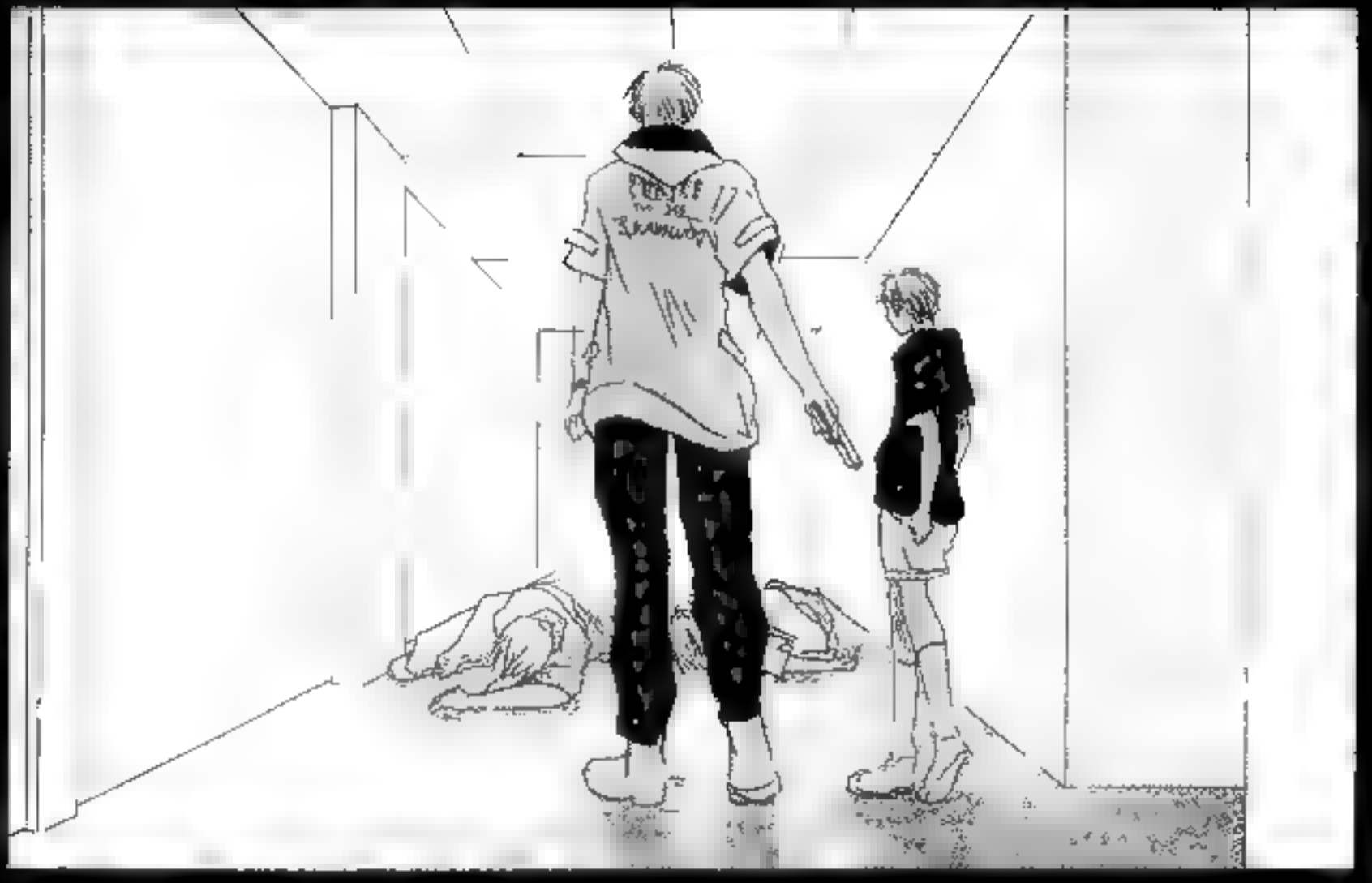
Bang
Bang

THEY'RE COMING

!!!

"Sleep."

Really.



Just one word.

IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT KAWAGUCHI-SAN, WHY DON'T YOU GO?

ARE YOU SURE?

EH...

KARASHIMA-KUN.

YOU'RE SPACING OUT.

THAT'S SO LIKE HER

IF YOU GET SCOLDED FOR FOLLOWING, THEN THAT'S THAT!!!

...

NOT GOING BECAUSE OF ME.

I DON'T WANT YOU TO REGRET LATER

NOT THAT I'M OK WITH YOU DOING SOMETHING DANGEROUS, BUT...

THANK YOU.

MIIN

MIIN*

*SFX: THE SOUND THAT CICADAS MAKE IN THE SUMMER.

ZA

A

A

A

MIIN

MIIN

MIIN

MIIN

pant

SNAP

pant

HOT

AH,

KARASHI-MA-KUN, YOU'RE EAR.Y.

IT'S SO HOT UNDER THE BLAZING SUN.

...WHY ARE YOU HOLDING AN UMBRELLA?

GOOD WORK YESTERDAY WE GOT ALL OF THEM, NO PROBLEM.

THAT'S RIGHT.

YOU SHOULD'VE WAITED INSIDE.

AKAKU SAKU KOE

安全

EH?!

DOESN'T THAT MASK REMIND YOU OF KARA-SHIMA-KUN?

AH...

NO, HE'S NOT TOO FAR OFF THAT'S A CHARM MASK TO FEND OFF EVIL... THERE'S A STORY.

KAWA-GUCHI.

Can't help it

What on earth do you see him as.

THE FOX RAN AWAY AND THE DEVIL SEARCHED AROUND, BUT ..

BUT ONE DAY THE FOX ATE A POISONOUS RED FLOWER THAT RUINED HIS VOICE.

THE DEVIL KEPT THE FOX TO SING FOR HIM.

ONCE THERE WAS A SILVER FOX WITH A GREAT VOICE THAT CHARMED A DEVIL.

RIGHT, SEE...

...HOW CAN THAT BE A CHARM?

A weird story

THE FOX WHO COULDN'T SING ANY MORE WAS LOST FOREVER.

SO, WHERE'S KARASHI-MA-KUN?

DOING A REPORT

THERE'S A SUMMER FESTIVAL AT THE NEARBY SHRINE TODAY WHY DON'T YOU TAKE HIM OUT TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER, KAWAGUCHI?

HMM.

YOU'RE STUPID, AREN'T YOU?

Anyone can see it's a flower

I THOUGHT THAT WAS THE SUN.

I THOUGHT THAT WAS THE SUN

THERE'S A RED FLOWER ON ITS FOREHEAD.

BUT I DON'T GET IT

ISN'T HIS FATHER AGAINST THIS?

...

WELL, HE'S GOT HIS OWN WAY OF THINKING

"DO AS YOU PLEASE."

looked a lot like him.

His late mother, according to the picture from his reference.

"IF YOU'RE FREE, THAT'S ALL GOOD,"

HE SAID.

may also be painful.

Not having anything, like me, is a problem, but

keeping your precious person beside you

I HAVEN'T DONE THIS FOR A LONG TIME

"YOU DON'T LOSE IT," HE SAID.

...

YOUR FATHER?

"IF YOU DON'T OWN IT,"

LIFE IS FRAGILE

AND SOON DISAP-PEARS

FLUTTER-ING LIKE FLOWER PETALS.

THEY ARE PRETTY DO YOU WANT SOME?

IF YOU CAN'T TRUST THAT, JUST LOOK AT ME.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT SCARES YOU SO, BUT

shudder

!!!

.....

LIFE IS FRAGILE AND VERY TOUGH AT THE SAME TIME.

KARA-SHIMA-KUN.

I'LL OVERCOME ANY CHALLENGES AND STUBBORNLY SURVIVE, YOU'LL SEE.

I'M TOUGH.

DON'T BE AFRAID TO LIVE WITH OTHERS.

FOR YOU, THINGS ARE DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF YOUR VOICE, BUT...

THIS IS FOR YOU. IT'S A CHARM.

WEAR THIS WHEN YOU WORK.

TOGE-THER.

LET'S DO OUR BEST.

DON'T GET USED TO BEING ALONE.

After that, Karashima-kun got a handle on things quickly and dealt with one case after another

His basically reckless nature

scared the hell out of me numerous times though.

YOU DON'T LOOK SO MUCH LIKE A BAD GUY ANY MORE.
More like a punk
OHHHHH
ONE CAN GET USED TO ANYTHING.
I'M FEELING MORE AFFECTIONATE TOWARD HIM LATELY.

❀ Naming Secret

One day, Karashima receives an invitation letter. The somewhat fishy letter is from "SK." Karashima s deep in his thoughts. There is Sawa Kokubu, Seiji Kawaguchi, Kentarou Sakamoto Kanae Satomi, and Kei-ichirou Siba... And so another trouble begins. That was a plot I prepared so I could use it one day. Whether or not I use it, I love preparing little set ups like that

❀ The Fox Mask Tale

I was going to use this for Satomi's story. Glad to be able to have it out

❀ The 25th Ateno New Writers' Award

Amazingly, I received the Excellent Debuting Writers' Award! So happy! During the award ceremony, I kept biting my tongue to stop from crying. The shield* (*a plate-like ornament) I received had the title, "Akaku Saku Koe," inscribed beautifully. This became another treasure of mine. I'll vow to create stories that will honor the award. Thank you so much.

1/4 and

...that's what I thought.

DO YOU THINK THAT HE CANNOT BE TRUSTED?

RIGHT. HIDDEN FROM KARASHIMA-KUN. SINCE THE START OF THE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL.

YOU GOT A WATCH-MAN?

.....

DOING THIS KIND OF WORK, SOMETIMES YOU COME ACROSS A CRIMINAL SIMILAR TO YOURSELF OUT OF BLUE.

I DON'T WANT TO BE LIKE THAT. YOU THINK, BUT THE WORLD ON THE OTHER SIDE CAN BE TEMPTING.

THUS WE'RE ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS SURVEILLANCE.

WE AWOKE HIM TO HIS VOICE'S "USEFULNESS,"

He was always looking down, taking care not to use his voice,

but still trying to search for his own place at the same time.

I was teamed up with him.

Ah, that's why.

YOU WEREN'T DOWN-TO-EARTH BACK THEN.

I WAS MORE WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

TO BE HONEST,

They put a burden on me.

KAWA-GUCHI-SAN,

YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY.

IT'S JUST ONE WORD.

FOR ME,

I'M START-ING TO GET IT.

HUH?

HOW IS IT?

WHY?

NOT TOO STRESS-FUL?

THE WORK.

ANY WISH?

ANY DESIRE?

KANAGUCHI-SAN.

IT'S SO VERY SIMPLE

I MIGHT BE ABLE TO GRANT THEM FOR YOU.

How about you?

On this side,

On the other side, there's an expanding world.

You're free.

What's your desire?

KAWAGU-CHI-SAN...

there's nothing to hold you back.

I CAN'T BE LIEVE
THAT KARASHI-MA-KUN

got soft-ened by a girl.

It's a
good day.

IT'S A GOOD DAY

honk

honk

NOT GOOD

Where did he go?!

THE WANTED CRIMI-NAL!!!

!

when you took Kokuba-san's hand,

you must have thought of losing her. I'm sure.

Dash

!

WAIT!

"Any wish?"

"Any desire?"

Karashi-ma-kun,

Truly, life is fragile and

partings come suddenly.

Your father is deep in sorrow for losing his precious one, but

the time he spent with her...

I don't think he regrets it.

That at least, we should truly believe.

That

is what
I wish

and keep
moving
forward.

Don't let
go of her
hand,

So please
don't be
afraid.

for you.

Can you
grant my
wish?

KAWAGU-
CHI-SAN.

Rattle

COME OUT.

DID YOU DO THIS?

MUST BE READY FOR THIS.

PANT

...

PANT

...

YOU...

PANT

..

PANT

MY BODY MOVES ON ITS OWN

DON'T MOVE.

...?!

PANT

PANT

PANT

IT'S
OK.

KAWA...

Slide

I AM OK.

"If you don't have anything to protect why don't you protect the civil peace?"

...That sounds so good.

So good.

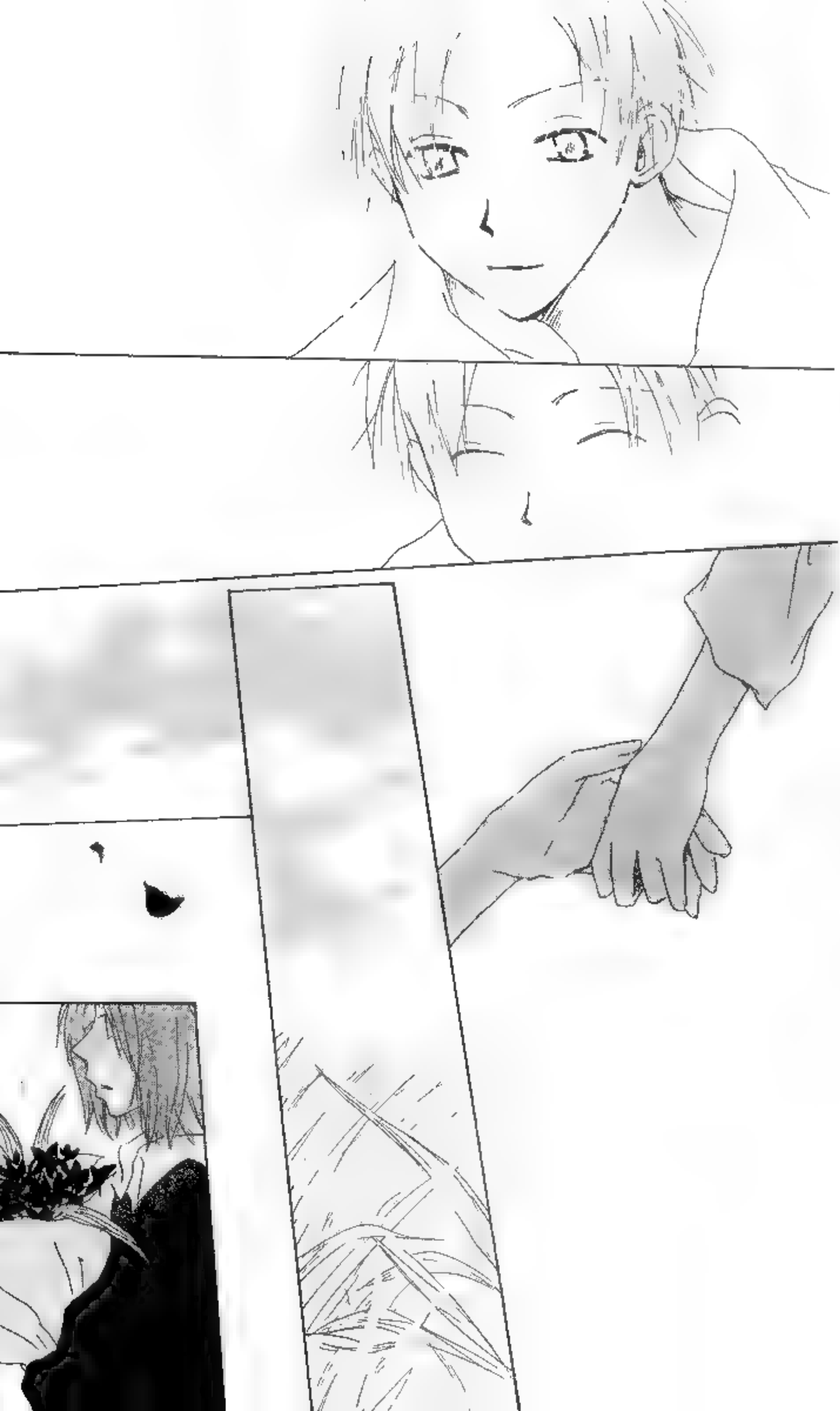
I TOLD YOU.

I WAS OK, WASN'T I?

COME HERE.

HERE.

I'M ALIVE, SEE?



YES.

WHO KNOWS. BUT THEY SAY I RECOVER LIKE A MONSTER.

SHOULD YOU BE WANDERING AROUND ALREADY?!

ARE YOU HERE TO SEE ME?

It's been only two weeks or so.

HE SHOULD BE TAKING A WALK AROUND.

"Kawaguchi-san..."

AHH, YEAH

WE WERE TALKING JUST NOW.

AH, IS KARASHIMA-KUN HERE ALREADY?

HE SAID HE'LL BE HERE...

"Even if I lose this voice one day."

"can I still come and see you sometimes?"

Of course...

Yeah, of course.

KAWAGUCHI-SAN, WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS OCCUPATION?

SEE,

EH?! WHAT'S THIS?!

WE CAN ARGUE AND SCREAM AT EACH OTHER.

THEN,

I DIDN'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO MAKE THEM MINE, SO

AT LEAST I WANTED TO PROTECT THEIR LIVES.

I DIDN'T HAVE ANY FAMILY, BUT

MET MANY GENTLE PEOPLE.

THAT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'M NEEDED, YOU KNOW?

SOME-HOW,

FOR PUTTING KARASHIMA-KUN IN DANGER ALL THE TIME.

I'M SORRY

AT THAT TIME,

BECAUSE HE WAS WORKING ON THIS JOB,

BUT...

I SPOTTED HIM AND...

CHASED H.M.

BECAUSE OF THE ONE STEP I TOOK, I THINK.

RIGHT NOW, I'M BY KARASHIMA-KUN'S SIDE,

AND I GUESS

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOOK KARASHIMA-KUN'S HAND WHEN HE SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN LEFT ALONE.

NOT ANY-MORE.

I FEARED THAT I'D BECOME THE TRIGGER ONE DAY.

TO BE HONEST, IT WAS A BURDEN TO ME.

EVEN THOUGH I'M THE ONE TO KEEP HIM IN CHECK.

As long as you

WITH YOU,

KOKUBU-SAN.

stay by his side, I'm sure...

Sometimes I wonder...

HUH? WHAT IS IT?

I, TOO, HAVE TO FIND SOMEONE SOON.

A LOSER

if you weren't the one who held my hand and led me...

AH, THE FLOWERS.

YES.

GO HOME BEFORE IT GETS DARK, OK?

I'M GOING BACK INSIDE

THANK YOU.

The path may be rough, and...

time after time, you may clench your teeth

and make her cry,

but those will be brilliant days.

So please
don't be
afraid,

and don't
ever let go.

Akaku Saku Koe / The End

The End Note

The last story.

During the ghost story, there was a little bit of "jealousy" happening for Kokubu. In this story, I wanted to try making either Kokubu or Karashima nervous, so this happened to become the last story. This series has been very important to me, so I tried and tried until the last minute to make this story absorbable. I'm embarrassed of how much trouble I caused my dear editor.
However, because of that, I felt totally blanked out and empty after finishing this story. Then I remembered that before my debut, I always felt like this after finishing each story. It was really fun! Thank you so much for all this time.

The story of Sakamoto.

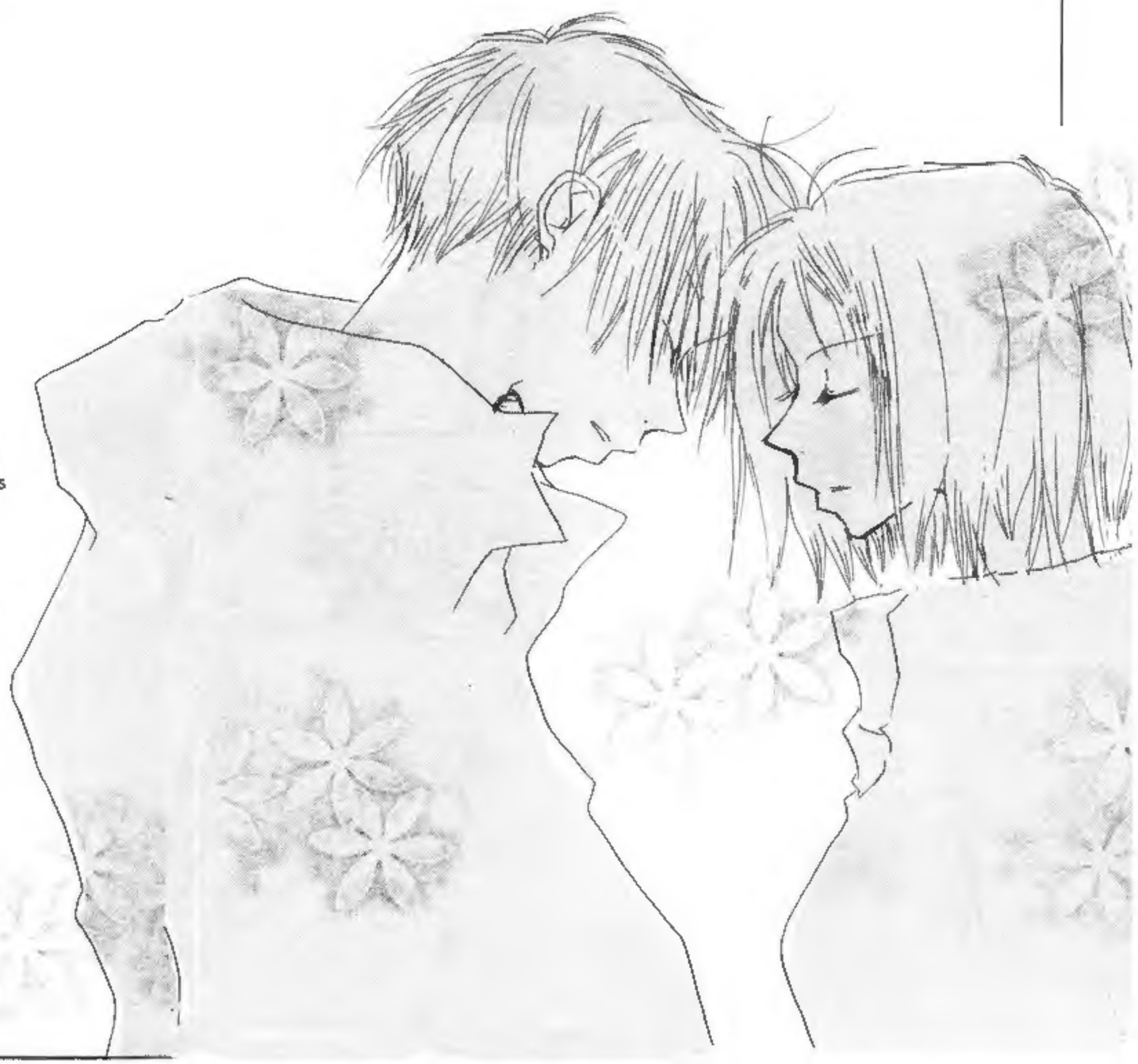
Reading it now, the ma* (*the pauses between the lines, or the rhythm) of this story is a little weird. If you think something is different, that may be the reason. This could be the ma of Sakamoto.

The story of Kawaguchi.

I always wanted to draw this story, given the chance. Drawing about friendship and family is one of my favorites, so this went rather quickly although I still struggled. Www (moaning) It was fun, nevertheless!

The ghost dare story.

I tried to write a "Kokubu brings Karashima and his father together" story, but it became too long and too quiet, so I changed it into this. That's why the theme of this story is unclear, but by drawing this story, I felt like I understood Kokubu more.



This is the last volume of "Akaku Saku Koe."
The series started as a one-shot, and then was allowed to continue until now. I'm truly happy. Many thanks to you all! The reader-sama, editor-sama, Tamaori-sama, Kobato-sama, my family and friends.

Thank you all very much —— ^^

Well, since I'm a debuting artist who started with a series, many readers are attached to "Akaku Saku Koe" more than "Yuki Midorikawa." Thus, in the future, I want to create stories that inspire readers to think, "this story looks interesting," which happens to be written by Midorikawa.

For suggestions, comments, requests, etc., please send them to the address below. —— ^^

Yuki Midorikawa
Hakusen-sha LaLa Editorial Department
2-2-2 Awaji-chou, Kanda
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
101-0063
Japan

To be honest, I haven't written many replies ^^;, but I really want to!!! Please have patience. Sorry ^^; The reply might be written on a post card, so if you're too shy, please let me know. I'll put it in an envelope and send it to you.

Well, well, I really, really, want to
thank you very much.

2001. 2 [illegible]

AKAKU SAKU KOE THE END NOTE / END